

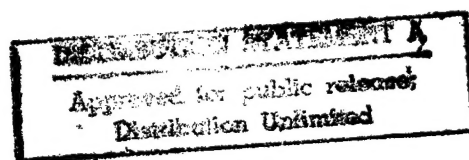
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9 May 1984

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MENEVEN PLANS DEVELOPMENT OF ORINOCO OIL BELT

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 28 Mar 84 p 2-7

[Text] MENEVEN [a subsidiary of PETROVEN] is planning the development of the Orinoco Oil Belt until the year 2000, when it may be possible to achieve a potential production of over 500,000 barrels of heavy crude per day in the Hamaca-Pao area, based on the results accrued to date with the Guanipa 100+ Plan, calling for the generation of an additional 100,000 barrels of oil by 1988.

Under the title "Complete Development of Heavy Crude," MENEVEN's Production Management has divided the program for the Belt into three consecutive phases: intensive steam plan, or first expansion (100,000 additional barrels), second expansion (120,000 additional barrels), until a complete development of heavy crude has been achieved, calling for up to a fifth expansion (580,000 additional barrels).

In the strategy for the first expansion, the original master plan, known as Guanipa 100+, was revised. Emphasis was placed on the alternate injection of steam as an operational technique, which will allow for the generation of an additional 100,000 barrels of heavy crude by 1988, with an investment smaller than the one originally predicted. The analysis directed the effort toward blocs A and B of the Hamaca area, defining the traps to be developed and the distribution in time of the potential to be generated and the associated infrastructure

The strategy under study indicates that the second expansion is aimed at generating 120,000 additional barrels of heavy crude by 1991, beginning in 1987. The development would include the rest of the Hamaca area, also taking in the Melones Field.

After the two aforementioned expansions, as as part of the potential planning of that company for the year 2000, work is being done on conceptual bases for additional heavy crude development until the total of 580,000 barrels per day is reached. For this activity, consideration is being given to various options for operation and transportation, based on different refining methods, and taking into consideration the long term market and supply international scenarios.

2909

CSO: 3348/361

PDVSA TO INVEST 1.3 BILLION IN ORINOCO OIL BELT PROJECT

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 14 Mar 84 p D-6

[Text] Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc (PDVSA) has announced that the Orinoco Oil Belt budget for 1984 is 1.3291 billion bolivares, of which sum 62.6 million relates to outlays for this year, and the rest to projects that may be extended into subsequent years.

When the oil industry decides on its budget, it divides it between programs (1 year in duration) and projects (several years).

The budget for the Belt divided according to subsidiaries stipulates 14.2 million bolivares for CORPOVEN (solely for exploration activity, because the zone assigned to the company did not prove to be as productive as had been anticipated); for LAGOVEN, 230.4 million, for oil operations in Cerro Negro; for MARAVEN, 63.5 million, for the development of the Zuata zone; and 986.7 million bolivares for MENEVEN's Guanipa 100 Project.

Similarly, 34.3 million bolivares has also been allocated to INTEVEP [Institute of Venezuelan Petroleum Technology] to carry out the research project for the pilot plant supply, the purpose of which is to determine the future efforts in the Belt after 1986, depending on the results accrued.

Project Guanipa 100 has a cost of 3.7 billion bolivares until 1988, when it will contribute a daily production of 100,000 barrels of heavy oil. The operational target for 1984 is 20,000 barrels per day, whereas the current production stands at 14,000 units per day.

This year, in Cerro Negro, it is hoped to extract 30,000 barrels per day from two experimental production blocs, which will make it possible to determine the mechanisms for oil operations and productivity from the wells in that zone assigned to LAGOVEN.

At the moment, the oil industry has not considered making additional investments in Cerro Negro.

In the Zuata area, MARAVEN currently has a project under way for pilot tests to evaluate the quality and quantity of the crude that exists there, with a sum

of 153 million bolívares. These tests will contribute between 6,000 and 7,000 barrels per day to the national oil production this year.

INTEVEP is taking part in this project, in the research on the most suitable methods for operations, while the control of the tests (essentially, steam injection into the wells) is incumbent on MARAVEN.

The exploratory phase in the Belt, started in 1979 and concluded last year, with an investment of 4.6 billion bolívares, made it possible to quantify the reserves at 1.2 trillion barrels of oil on site, 20 percent of which is recoverable. The oil industry considers these estimates "conservative."

By the year 2000, the Belt will be contributing a production of between 300,000 and 400,000 barrels of heavy crude per day, coming from the Cerro Negro, Guanipa 100 and Zuata projects.

The development of the Orinoco Oil Belt is closely linked with PDVSA's commercial strategy of selling increasingly larger volumes of heavy crude, of which Venezuela has large reserves, on the international market.

2909

CSO: 3348/361

CLASSIFIED MESSAGES OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES REVEALED

PY171730 Buenos Aires GENTE in Spanish 12 Apr 84 pp 4-13

[Report by Juan Carlos Porras, date not given]

[Excerpts] Coded cables consist of reports that Argentine ambassadors throughout the world send in, on foreign governments or any other type of information which cannot be made public. These cables, once they are decoded at the decoding office in Buenos Aires--which is run by Colonel Gustavo Jose Caceres--are submitted in a folder or in a sealed envelope (depending on the type of cable) to Foreign Minister Dante Caputo.

Coded messages cannot be photocopied by the foreign minister nor by any functionary who had been authorized by the foreign minister to read it. These messages are returned to the communications center where, if not filed, they are crushed and destroyed.

In addition to the director and subdirector, a chief of each shift and 60 employees at each of three shifts worked around the clock in the communications center of the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

These functionaries work in the two offices into which the center is divided: the telex office on one side, and the coding and decoding office to handle outgoing or incoming coded messages.

How is a message sent? The functionary who signs the message gives it to the operator at the Argentine Embassy in a given country who assigns a code to it, (the one at the time in force at the Foreign Ministry), and proceeds to punch the text. Text comes out of the machine coded on a tape (similar to that of a common telex) which is transmitted to the Foreign Ministry where a receiving machine produces another coded tape which is finally transferred to a decoding machine. The machine sending the inbound message has a computer system which adds a new code on the tape which is seen by the embassy operator who sends it to the Foreign Ministry. The only machine which can read this code is the decoding machine at the Foreign Ministry. This way, there is security procedure so that the transmission process and its secrecy code are not fully known or at the mercy of the operator who sends the message.

In the case of coded messages sent from the United States, the operator sends the coded tape to the New York Center which they proceeds to send it to Buenos Aires. The New York operators can have no knowledge of the text and the secret code, because all they do is passing the tape from one telex machine to another, so that the message can reach the Foreign Ministry in Buenos Aires. In addition to New York, the other two points where the message can be tapped are Washington and Buenos Aires. People close to the Foreign Ministry and former foreign ministers affirmed that it is impossible to tap a message in Washington because there the message is handled by two or three operators who have been carefully screened. This is in contrast with what happens in the communications center of the Foreign Ministry in Buenos Aires where messages from embassies around the world arrive and many operators work.

The secret messages are classified as normal secret messages which are those carrying routine information. After being received by an operator, the shift chiefs place these messages in a folder that will be sent to the foreign minister. In this case the messages are exposed to being seen by several functionaries who are close to the foreign minister. Very likely, more than 10 functionaries have access to this class of messages before the foreign minister decides that it should go for information to a given area of the Foreign Ministry and later for destruction to the communications center. This is the case of the first message made public by Iglesias Rouco, the one referring to Caputo's trip to the United States.

Another classification is that of messages for exclusive information. These messages cannot be seen by any other functionary without approval by the foreign minister. These messages are received by an operator who passes them to the shift chief to be placed in a while sealed envelop addressed to the foreign minister. This is the case of the second message made public by Iglesias Rouco: The Prebisch message. After reading this class of messages, the foreign minister shows them to whomever he considers should know about them or sends them to any particular area of the Foreign Ministry. It should be noted that the Prebisch message had a notation saying that "it should be brought to the attention of Grispun and Vasques, economy minister and Central Bank president respectively." It is not known whether Caputo complied or not with the instruction given in the notation (it is his prerogative to have done it or not), but it is interesting to note that, regarding the Prebisch message, President Alfonsin has said that "it is not a problem for the Foreign Ministry." Did he mean that the message had been sent to other areas? So the possibilities of who stole the message are wide open.

The first message of this class was made public under numbers 888/889/890 which correspond to successive [word indistinct] messages which make up a whole message that must not be sent all at once. The important question is not that the secret code was made public (because secret codes are systematically changed every month), but that the whole thing seems to reveal that something worse has happened. As part of the espionage that goes on among foreign ministries, all of them intercept "secret" messages sent by other countries. However, they are of little use because they are coded, and the decoding of such messages is nearly impossible. Now, since the number and text of a secret message were published, any foreign ministry that intercepted that message can study the original test and learn the coding system not only of this message but that of all other previously intercepted messages.

[Begin interview with Foreign Minister Caputo by Juan Carlos Porras]

[Question] Minister Caputo, do you believe that the publication of the coded message is a maneuver to discredit you here at home and damage your basis for negotiations with the United States?

[Answer] I do not know where that attack on national security came from. But what worries me is the resolve they showed to obtain that secret message, because in doing so they violated very strict security rules. There were only two copies of that message, and to get to those copies was not easy. So whoever obtained it had to look very carefully for it.

[Question] You did not answer my question. Does this hurt you?

[Answer] The importance and effect that this problem has on me personally or officially in the United States are something that only the court can investigate and clear up. That's why I submitted the problem to the nation's attorney general who is carrying out the necessary investigations. But I do not believe that my mission will be impaired by the publication of that classified document. It has had internal repercussions. Moreover, I do not believe that the United States will be influenced by such maneuvers. To the North Americans this is just a small anecdote.

What worries me the most is not knowing who dared to do this. [end interview]

San Martin Palace is still puzzled by all this. But nobody thinks of adopting an attitude of helplessness. The investigation is on. There are several hypotheses, and the suspects are many. To reach a conclusion, the investigators decided to go back to the date when Dante Caputo was appointed foreign minister, to the surprise of many and the silent but effective resistance of the so-called "traditional Argentine diplomatic" sector.

The first phase of that resistance ended with the departure of one of the foreign minister's under secretaries, Hugo Gobbi. It is said that during his stay at the Foreign Ministry he did not make much effort to conceal his opposition to the minister.

As soon as he was sworn in, Caputo noted that something was wrong. There had been several "leaks," including a list of future ambassadors. The investigators believe that the "leak" of the secret telexes is designed to prove that Caputo is incapable of keeping control of the Foreign Ministry.

It is also known that when the now publicly known secret telex was received at the Foreign Ministry, there were 18 persons, operators and officials included, working in the communications room; that no more than 6 or 7 persons could have had access to it, and that 2 operators are the main suspects.

CSO: 3348/376

BRIEFS

TAM TANKS TO PANAMA--The newspaper LA PRENSA has reported that the Panamanian National Defense Forces have acquired 60 TAM medium-sized tanks from Argentina. The report, quoting the British specialized JANE'S DEFENSE (?weekly) magazine, claims that the sale marks a considerable expansion of Panama's Armed Forces, which are preparing to take over total responsibility for the defense of the Panama Canal in the year 2000, according to the treaties signed with the United States. [Text] [PA150103 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 84]

CSO: 3348/376

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, EXCHANGE OF CHARGES REPORTED

FNM's Isaacs at Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Feb 84 pp 1, 11

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] **OFFICIAL** Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, declared at a rally at the Southern Recreation Grounds last night that the FNM now has the majority of the voters of the country on its side and will become the next government of the Bahamas "very, very shortly."

Mr Isaacs' statement came as he welcomed veteran Labour leader Sir Randol Fawkes, a former Minister of Labour in the PLP Government, into the opposition party after Sir Randol had earlier pledged his support to the FNM in a speech to a cheering crowd of over 500.

He said that when the "Dis-sident Eight" - two of them Cabinet ministers - left the PLP in 1970, formed the Free-PLP and later the FNM, they knew 14 years ago that the PLP under L O Pindling was bad for this country.

"But it has taken us a long time to convince you, the people of the Bahamas, that we were right," Mr Isaacs said. "But with the help of the Commission, with the help of NBC and with the help of Mr Ellicott, we are now beginning to convince you, the people of the Bahamas, that we of the Free National Movement were right when we opposed L O P and his wicked PLP."

"We know that we were right and you now realize that we were right," he told his audience.

"You know, it is interesting and I think it is probably an omen that Sir Randol Fawkes, and I say he is a symbol of the people of the Bahamas who have been on the fence and who have been doubting up to now. He is a symbol of those people who have now realized that the Free National Movement will become the next government of this country very, very shortly," Mr Isaacs said.

He said that it is interesting that some of us were thinking that if we were to just keep quiet, the PLP would govern this country well and everything would be perfectly all right.

Mr Isaacs pointed out that one of those people was Mr Leslie Miller of the Light Industries Council and noted what Mr Miller had to say when the Cable Beach Hotel was being constructed.

He said that Mr Miller claimed that not one mattress from the Bahamian Mattress Factory was bought by that hotel and the Prime Minister is the chairman of the board of the Hotel Corporation that operates the hotel.

"Not one mattress was bought from the Bahamian company and not one gallon of

paint was bought from the paint company, the Bahamian paint company, not one gallon," Mr Isaacs said.

He said that the PLP Government has not only victimized their political enemies but has neglected to even look after their friends.

He said that just yesterday he sent the FNM's Shadow Minister of Education to the Prime Minister's constituency of Kemps Bay, Andros, because the buses that were responsible for taking the children to school were not running because the owners and the operators of those buses were not being paid.

He said that one would have thought they were FNMs, but that they were PLP supporters of the Prime Minister and they were not being paid and have not been paid for months.

"This is the sort of thing that this PLP Government inflicts upon Bahamians and you know better than I do the extent to which they would victimize any Bahamian brother or sister who has the courage to stand up and oppose them," Mr Isaacs said.

"I want my fellow Bahamians to realize, and I am giving you this pledge tonight, that under an FNM Government, everybody would be able to hold his head high, everybody would be able to obtain employment regardless

of his colour, regardless of his race, and especially regardless of his political affiliation," Mr Isaacs said.

"Fear now stalks this land," he said. "Everybody, be he FNM or PLP, is afraid to open his mouth and criticize anything that is so obviously wrong because he realizes that if the PLP can possibly hurt him, can possibly victimize him, they will do so and they will do it to their own brothers and sisters as they would do it to the FNM."

"There is even Wilbert Moss," he said, referring to the dropping of the Acklins and Crooked Island PLP-MP from the Deputy Chairmanship of the Water and Sewerage Corporation after criticizing government during the 1984 budget debate last December.

He then proceeded to paint a picture of Bahamians living together in harmony, not being afraid of whether Big Brother, in the form of the PLP, is looking over their shoulders to victimize them if they say the wrong thing or if they happen to be friendly with the wrong persons.

"I want to paint a picture tonight of Bahamians living

together in love and harmony and that can only come about, my brothers and sisters, that can only come about when you, the people of the Bahamas, see it fit to change that wicked PLP Government and elect an FNM Government," Mr Isaacs said.

He said that Bahamians have been suffering from victimization and unemployment over the last several years because of the bad policy and the uncaring attitude of the PLP Government.

"They do not care, provided they could line their pockets, and we have the evidence that some of them have really been lining their pockets, they could not care less what happens to that 20 to 40 per cent of the people who are unemployed," Mr Isaacs said.

He said that what is almost worse than that is the corruption that is happening in the country today and the moral degradation and the way our young people are being destroyed by drugs brought to this country by wicked drug traffickers.

He said that if we are not careful we are going to lose a

whole generation of our young people.

"Our young people are becoming addicted to coke, marijuana and I believe even heroin and you know, the people who are trafficking in those drugs, according to the evidence, are people who are very close to the people in power," he said.

"And I say that nothing, nothing can be worse and no punishment could be worse or could be bad enough for people who traffic in drugs and who destroy the youth and the not so young people of our country," the official opposition leader said.

"And we have got, as we have said before, we have got to throw the rascals out. L O and his crowd have got to go and there is no question about that," he said.

He said that he has heard that over the last six months, six young people have died from drug abuse.

He said that a majority of the Bahamian people now know that the PLP was leading them up the garden path for the last 17 years.

Possible PLP Defectors

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Feb 84 pp 1, 11

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] **FREE National Movement chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield told a "Sweet Music Man" rally last night that he has heard on the "sip-sip" that "at least eight" Progressive Liberal Party members are now prepared to join the official opposition party's 11 MPs in the House of Assembly to give the FNM 19 seats in parliament to oppose the Government.**

Mr Whitfield, MP for Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama, and a former Minister of Education in the PLP Government who dubbed the Prime Minister the "Sweet Music Man" at the FNM's 1983 convention,

declared that Sir Lynden Pindling "as a black leader" has let the country down.

"But I am sure that (Official Opposition and FNM Leader Kendal) Isaacs, as a black leader, won't let us down," Mr Whitfield said, adding that the alternative to the PLP Government is the FNM.

According to Mr Whitfield, who led the "Dissident Eight" revolt against the Prime Minister in 1970, the Prime Minister has indicated the kind of campaign he intends to wage for the next general election by his speech on slavery at the opening of the Archives' slavery exhibition on Monday.

He said that the Prime Minister has shown that he intends to run a campaign to divide the country between black and white.

He told over 500 cheering supporters in his remarks, punctuated by the record of the song "Sweet Music Man" sung by the black American singer Millie Jackson, that since the Commission of Inquiry got underway, the country has been hearing a lot of "sip-sip," a phrase the Prime Minister himself had coined at PLP Law and Order rallies last year.

He said that since 1970, some people have been crying out and trying to explain to the people

in the country, what neglect, what cruelty and how hard PLP rule has been.

He said that the people did not understand and many did not want to hear, but the Prime Minister himself created a Royal Commission "and now by damn you have got to hear."

He said that in 1970, there were some PLPs who saw that the Prime Minister did not have the interest of the people at heart "and we came and we told the truth and from then right up to now they have tried to smear us, they have victimized us, they have done everything that they can to us but look at what has happened when you know that what you say is right and you are prepared to stand up and fight for what you believe.

"Those people now see that the song of the Sweet Music Man back in 1970 right up to 1983 was only intended to mesmerize you and put you to sleep. But by his own hands, he has appointed a Royal Commission which is singing Sweet Music Man," he said.

Noting that he need not catalogue for his audience how difficult the Prime Minister has made life for many Bahamians, Mr Whitfield said that the cost of living is rising every day, many youngsters keep coming time after time looking for jobs that are not there.

"But by his own hands, he has appointed a commission which tells you where the interest of the country has been, not in creating jobs for the people, but for creating sip-sip," the Pine Ridge MP said.

"A most frightening thing that has happened in the last few days, one or two speakers mentioned it and I will mention it too," he said. "Pindling has already indicated to the nation the kind of campaign that he intends to wage, when he talks about racism, when he talks about slavery."

"Yes, we know that slavery was awful, but we also know too that children and young people who become slaves of free-basing are even worse than those of our ancestors," he said.

"Pindling has already shown that he intends to run a campaign to divide the country again. Black and white. But let me sound the warning. Not all white people are good; not all white people are bad. Not all black people are good; not all black people are bad. Not all PLPs are good; and not all PLPs are bad.

"I believe that today there are many PLPs who finally, as a result of what they have been hearing and learning over the last several weeks, have had the scales removed from over their eyes.

"I know that there are many black people who are ashamed of a black government that has led us down the garden path but we need not turn our heads in shame and keep our heads bowed because there is an alternative to the PLP and that is the FNM," Mr Whitfield declared.

"Our purpose is not to destroy black leadership, our purpose is to instill dignity in our people," he said. "Pindling as a black leader has let us down, but I am very sure that Isaacs as a black leader won't let us down."

He said that the Bahamas is just a small, independent nation sitting just off the coast of Florida with people who have the biggest hearts in the world and that the Bahamians are the most magnificent people in the world.

"There is absolutely nothing wrong with the Bahamian people. What is wrong with the Bahamian nation is this government and it is that government of the PLP. That is what we must remove," Mr Whitfield said.

"It is our people working hand in hand together, working under the leadership which the Free National Movement will provide, can raise all of our Bahamian people into a position of a dignified nation," he said.

"Let no one fool you, what we have heard over the last several weeks, is cause for great concern among all Bahamians because our country has got a very bad name in international circles and as a result of what

our government has done, we have created problems of shame for other black governments around the world," Mr Whitfield said.

"And therefore, as a nation of 85 per cent black people, we have a solemn responsibility to put black leadership in power in parliament immediately which will give us a direction that will lift all of our people to the heights that they know Bahamian people can in fact make," he added.

He said that Bahamians came through slavery, through rum-running, through the depression, through discrimination and recriminations "and we shall come through this crisis which this nation faces of drug smuggling."

"But we can only do it if we can cause the PLP to take the honourable course; which they know honourable men take, and that is resign from parliament and allow decent, proper men to take over the reins of government of this country and do the job," he said.

"The PLP has a history of moving in eights and I have already heard one sip-sip, that there are at least eight who are prepared to join up with 11 to make 19," Mr Whitfield said.

"There are some who are genuinely concerned about the quality of our nation and the quality of the leadership which is now provided by our nation and that is why I have said that not all PLPs are bad," he said. "There are some who desire to see that our country is put on a proper path again."

"But if we sit back and wait for what they call the Ellicott Express to make the change, that change will never, ever come," he said. "That change has got to come because the Bahamian people will get on Bay Street, will get in parliament, will write letters to the Press, and demand that the changes come and demand that Pindling remove himself from power."

He said that if the crisis continues to develop and escalate; our children will become victims and parents will have to bring it to a halt or a stop, otherwise mothers and

fathers who have raised sons and daughters will be weeping even more harshly than some of them weep now.

"We as parents have an extremely solemn responsibility towards our youngsters," he said. "We also have a responsi-

bility towards one another. When any mother's child falls victim to this evil, it is up to us as friends, neighbours and family to help one another to overcome this difficulty."

"Many of our young people are without hope because there

are so many things, so many evils that are around them and this has happened and what we have heard down at that commission tells us that this has got to stop otherwise all of our young people will be destroyed," he said.

Bostwicks' Speeches

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Feb 84 pp 1, 11

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Official Opposition Senate Leader John Henry Bostwick, whose name was mentioned in the Royal Commission of Inquiry hearings in January, and his wife, Yamacraw MP Mrs Janet Bostwick, personally assured Free National Movement supporters that neither they, nor the party had anything to fear from the commission.

The Bostwicks were two of the several speakers who addressed last night's meeting of the FNM at the Southern Recreation Grounds last night.

Turning to the issue of the day, Mr Bostwick said: "I hate to say I told you so but I told you so. The only thing I didn't know was that it was going to be as deep as it was."

"I didn't even know as the man say how wide it was. But I tell you, you know now what I was trying to tell you in November," Senator Bostwick said.

Mr Bostwick told the crowd that the Prime Minister and other Ministers are going here and there opening places in an attempt to detract from the real issues of the day. But, he said, the people would not let them forget what those issues are.

Mr Bostwick then declared: "I want to use this opportunity to give you my personal assurance that as far as the name Bostwick is concerned and as far as the name Bostwick and FNM are concerned, neither Bostwick nor the FNM have anything to fear from this Commission of Inquiry."

"My life and my record as a politician and as a lawyer in this country, and I speak for my wife, they are an open book. Mr Ellicott (the commission chief counsel) and all of his detectives and whoever else are quite welcome to examine the life of the Bostwicks from top to bottom," the former Official Opposition Leader added.

In her remarks, Mrs Bostwick, the first woman elected to Parliament, said that she felt not "one ounce of sorrow" that the corruption of the PLP Government is being exposed and "thanked God and hoped that every piece of it will be exposed."

"It needs to be exposed because we need our people to know exactly who these persons were who sought to be what they called their saviours, these

people who called us traitors when we dared to tell you that they were no good, when we told you that they were corrupt, when we told you that they were selling the country out, they called us everything but children of God," Mrs Bostwick said.

"Now, the truth will come...the truth will come out and I repeat my husband. I don't worry about one FNM who sits in that parliament and I am sure that there's more than one and I am not like Mr Pindling who says I can only speak for myself.

"No. I speak for me and all of my FNM parliamentary colleagues and we say that we have got nothing to fear," Mrs Bostwick said.

She said that in the weeks and months to come, they have all got to be very careful.

"We are dealing with a bunch of dirty, no-good, good-for-nothing people, who will stoop at nothing to try to smear and involve many of us. FNMs keep your car locked. Don't go anywhere. Be careful what you eat and be careful what you drink.

"And I mean that just the way I said it. I tell my children that and I tell you that. We have got to be careful. They would love to smear plenty of us. Don't let it happen. Don't let it happen.

"I told you at the convention. We are the torchbearers. Our symbol is the torch. We carry that torch in our hands and so we are aware that the first person it lights is us and so

we have got to keep our garments clean.

"And we know that and thank God we have been doing that. I am sorry for them on the other side who have not been doing that," Mrs Bostwick said.

She said that if the crowd attending the meeting were to march to Bay Street when the House meets again, the Prime Minister would not be able to hold out as much as he is holding out now.

Telling the crowd that she was told that the Prime Minister sprinted across to the Cabinet office last Wednesday during a demonstration and, as the Nassau Guardian said that 31 people were involved in the demonstration, then the Prime Minister would try to hide if the crowd at the Southern Recreation grounds was to descend on Bay Street.

ation grounds was to descend on Bay Street.

"And that is what we need to do. We do need to see you where you can be counted. Make no mistake. Make no mistake. A number of you may feel that by showing your faces, you expose yourselves to victimization and you expose yourselves to many other things.

"Let me tell you, you are already marked. You are already exposed to everything you fear. You may as well fight it with all of your strength, because if you don't fight it with all of your strength all the things that you do fear will come to pass.

"But if you fight, join us, fight with all that is within you, there is no way they could beat us," Mrs Bostwick said.

Fawkes in FNM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Veteran labour leader Sir Randol Fawkes threw his support behind the official opposition Free National Movement before over 500 cheering FNM supporters at a "Sweet Music Man" rally on the Southern Recreation Grounds last night and declared: "The mountain is really shaking now."

In his address at the rally, Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, said that Sir Randol is the "symbol" of those Bahamians who have been on the fence and doubting up to now, but who have now realized that the FNM will become the next government of the country "very, very shortly."

"If you believe that you can, then you will indeed find out that it is possible to move the mountain, and I want you to know that the mountain

is really shaking now," said Sir Randol, who is the author of a book entitled: "The Faith that moved the mountain." It gives an account of the struggles of labour in the Bahamas.

Sir Randol asked the crowd to be on Bay Street when the House of Assembly meets again on February 22 and to lead "that Cabinet" where they should go. He told them that very shortly they would be asked to sign petitions to help remove the PLP from office.

Telling the crowd that the ground on which they stood is "sacred ground," Sir Randol said that the late Jamaican national hero Marcus Mosiah Garvey addressed Bahamians in 1929 after travelling to the Bahamas on a ship of the Black Star Shipping Lines.

"And when Marcus Garvey docked at Prince George Wharf, they would not allow him to land," said Sir Randol, adding that he, O E Johnson and others went to the wharf and declared that they wanted to hear Marcus Garvey speak.

(At the time Sir Randol was only five years old. Today he clarified his statement of last night. He said he was a little boy at the time and remembers going with his father, Eustace Duvalier, O E Johnson and Walton Young, then a member of the House of Assembly. Sir Randol is the only survivor of this group).

"And they marched him from Prince George Dock to this Southern Recreation Grounds and it was here that Marcus Garvey spoke for the first time and he told black people, like you and me, that they could indeed become their own governors," Sir Randol said.

He said that it started something that has never stopped and in 1942, the people--masons, carpenters and stevedores--decided to march, romping and thumping up Burma Road.

"And they marched in the day and they marched in the night and they marched themselves straight into history," the Labour leader said.

He said that he and other leaders, including the late national heroes Sir Milo Butler, first Bahamian governor-general, and Mr Clarence Alfred Bain, were inspired by that dream of Marcus Garvey.

"And L O Pindling came along and we all marched with him and he pledged from his place a sacred oath that if we could win the government we would govern with integrity," but, he said, L O Pindling had lost his way.

Sir Randol reminded the crowd that he told the Bahamian people in 1969 that the Prime Minister was straying from the straight and narrow path and that he could not get the Prime Minister or anybody to second his motion for independence.

"I made a motion for independence. The UBP won't second it. The PLP won't second it and L O got up and said we don't want any independence.

So time began to get short...1968, 1969, '70 and no independence and I just couldn't get the Progressive Liberal Party to go for independence," he said.

He said that there was only one way that he thought he could get the Prime Minister to move for independence.

He claimed that he compiled certain documents dealing with certain things taking place in government between 1968 and 1971 and sent those documents to the Commonwealth Secretary. He said he got a letter inviting him to London to confer with the Colonial Office and informing him that a copy of his documents had been sent to L O Pindling for his remarks.

"And you know what he said: Independence!"

He said that when the House of Assembly meets again on February 22, the people should come out and lead "that Cabinet where they should go..."

"But it won't come just by saying it," Sir Randol said. "Very shortly, I think, very shortly, I am almost certain about this, a group a concerned citizens will formally be presenting you with petitions to sign. So if we want a change, we have to work for it."

"We want everybody from Bimini to Inagua to sign that petition and it is most likely that we will be here again the night before the House of Assembly to advise you and to give you instructions, to tell you how to behave on the 22nd and if they have any difficulty in moving behind the House, we will help them," he added.

PLP Treatment of Opponents

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Feb 84 pp 1, 12

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] **BAHAMIANS** today, particularly those in the far-flung islands, are suffering under the hands of the PLP Government worse than even before emancipation, with non-PLPs being treated like dogs, opposition High Rock MP Maurice Moore told an FNM rally Friday night.

The charge by Mr Moore, one of several FNM leaders addressing the "Sweet Music Man" rally, was made as he commented on a speech on "slavery" by Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling at the opening of the Archives Department exhibition last Monday.

"I noticed a few days ago when the Prime Minister

opened the art gallery and he spoke about slavery," Mr Moore told over 500 persons attending the rally. "Now I was very angered by the remarks he had to make."

"I was angered because, the Bahamian people today, particularly your brothers and sisters in the far flung islands, they are suffering under the hands of this PLP worse than ever before, even before emancipation," Mr Moore declared.

"Nowadays, our people, in the far flung islands, if you are not a PLP, they treat you like a dog," he said. "I have proven that our people have become so afraid, that they are afraid even

to open their mouths and tell you what is wrong."

"And I say to you that when Pindling is brassy enough to go before this nation and speak about slavery, when he, the Leader of the PLP, the Leader of this Government, has taken our poor Bahamian people down the road of slavery backwards, further than they have ever been, even before emancipation.

"Victimization in the country today, it is so dangerous, people who used to be strong and brave, when they talking to you about the Government, they are sip-sipping.

"That is what has happened to our people today under a

black Government and I say to you it is time for a change," he said.

Mr Moore told the crowd that it is time that they go to their neighbours, their friends and their families on the islands and tell them that they alone have the power to remove the PLP Government.

"Go and tell them that it's time to turn loose of the sinking ship. The PLP is sinking. Every day it's like they are in quicksand. Everyday, something bad comes out about them," he said.

"And I say to you," Mr Moore added, "this country cannot take anymore of Pindling and his PLP. L O has got to go. You have the power in your hands."

"I need not talk about the many wrongs, the many ills, the broken promises, we know about them," he said.

"And unless, and until, we can remove Pindling and Hanna from the leadership of this country, the Bahamian people will continue to suffer. They are only there to benefit the chosen

few. The chosen few are enjoying a wonderful life, while you, your neighbours, your friends, your families keep catching eternal hell in your own country," said Mr Moore.

He said that for months after the party's last convention, they have witnessed all sorts of information.

"We don't know what it is all about but what it does tell us is that when the Dissidents left the PLP in 1972, some of the reasons that you are now seeing today, we found since then that they were wrong to take...Pindling and Hanna and that crew, the trust which you gave them," he said.

"I say to you, 10 years...12 years later, the world is now seeing and we here in the Bahamas, in order to save the dignity of this nation, to save the future of our children, to save the future of the Bahamas, we have to remove the millstones from around our necks," Mr Moore said.

He told the crowd that the FNM has tried for 16 years and

that it got to the point where the Bahamian people were not moving fast enough so "God has now put his hands into it."

He also urged FNM supporters and the young people to get registered for an election to rid this country once and for all of the PLP Government.

"You see, it is not what colour you are or where you are from, if you are a crook, you are a crook, if you are dishonest, you are dishonest. If a white man is dishonest, he is dishonest, if a black man is dishonest, he is dishonest," Mr Moore said.

Mr Moore noted that Grand Bahama for the past 10 years has been crying and waiting and asking the Bahamian people to rid the country of the PLP.

"You have waited now until somebody has come to show you. You have seen it now. So for God's sake, go out and register so that when the decision is made which will be made, L O and the PLP will have got to go," said Mr Moore.

Slap at Nottage

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] YOUTH Minister Kendal Nottage made \$291,666.66¢ each month and \$9,722 every single day, including Saturdays and Sundays, last year, FNM St Michael's candidate, George Wilson, told the official opposition "Sweet Music Man" rally at the Southern Recreation Grounds Friday night.

Mr Wilson, who chaired the rally which attracted over 500 FNM members and supporters, said that from his reading of Mr Nottage's disclosure before the Public Disclosure Commission, the Minister made "a little over \$3 million while busy being a Minister."

One of several speakers who commented on Mr Nottage's disclosure of \$8 million, Mr Wilson told the crowd that Mr Nottage is the "same man"

who said at a PLP rally last year: "Don't worry where I got my money from."

In his remarks, former PLP House Speaker, Arlington Butler said that the Prime Minister ought to make Mr Nottage Minister of Finance.

Telling his audience that the PLP Government is trying to find an honourable way of surrendering power, Mr Butler said that the best way for them to do so is to quit.

He said that in May of 1966, the late former UBP Finance Minister, Sir Stafford Sands, gave the Bahamas a new money and the UBP was voted out of office by January of 1967.

He noted that the PLP Government changed the money in January so they should go in May.

Another speaker, Autrey Bullard, a former College of the Bahamas lecturer and FNM candidate for Pine Dale, said that in 1977, Mr Nottage disclosed \$1½ million; in 1979, \$3 million; in 1981, \$5½ million; and in 1983, \$8 million.

"In 1983 he told the Bahamian people: 'Don't worry about how I got my money....'" Mr Bullard told the crowd. "What is he going to tell Ellicott."

Mr Robert Ellicott, QC, a former Attorney General and Cabinet Minister of Australia, is the Commission of Inquiry chief counsel.

He also re-echoed FNM Chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield's call for civil disobedience, declaring that the FNM needs the power to tread upon the political scorpions in the Churchill Building.

FNM Candidates

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] THE FNM's newly-elected Candidates Committee has met to select candidates for the next general elections.

FNM members, interested in running for the party, have been asked by the committee to "send in their applications now."

"This is perhaps the earliest in any parliamentary term that the Opposition has started the process of candidate selection," said a party release. "The FNM is convinced that the country faces a tremendous crisis which

can only be resolved by an early election, even as early as this year," the release added.

"It is obvious that the PLP Government is under heavy strain which severely hampers their ability to govern the country and maintain stability. National problems are mushrooming in every facet of the nation's life and these include rampant unemployment, crime drug abuse and corruption," the release said.

At its first meeting for 1984 the party's Central Council met

on February 6 and elected seven persons to serve on the Candidates Committee.

They are Senator Charles Virgill, Mrs Janet Bostwick, Mr Orville Turnquest, Mr Arthur Foulkes, Mrs Hilda Antonio, Mr Anthony Rolle and Mr Rudyard Penn. They join party leader Kendal Isaacs and party chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield, who are ex-officio members of the committee. Mr Isaacs is chairman of the committee.

Isaacs on Next Election

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Feb 84 p 7

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] OFFICIAL Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs urged Free National Movement members and supporters at a rally Friday night to be prepared to stand up to the ruling Progressive Liberal Party because the coming general election will be the most important one ever to be held in the Bahamas.

He warned that a victory by the PLP will be interpreted by them to mean that the Bahamian people are endorsing all of their "wicked practices."

He said the Bahamian people will be telling the PLP and the world that they agreed with what the PLP are doing if the ruling party is elected to office again.

"L O and his gang will not coil up and play dead," Mr Isaacs told his audience. "They are going to fight to the nail because they believe that they are on to a good thing and it is up to us to do what is necessary to get rid of them."

Reiterating a call by a previous speaker, the FNM Leader said that one of the things that the party supporters and members must do is to make sure that they are registered.

"We must make sure that those of us who were too young in 1982 but who are now 18 years or over, will get registered," Mr Isaacs said.

He said that if they are registered and have moved, they must get a transfer and also help the party candidates campaign.

"You must be prepared to stand up to the PLP because this election, and I know I have said this before, this election is going to be the most important election that has ever been held in the Bahamas," Mr Isaacs said.

"I would hate to think what will happen to our beloved Bahamas if L O and his gang were to win the next election," the official opposition leader said. "Because what...they will interpret that victory to mean that you, the people of the Bahamas, are endorsing all of their wicked practices that they have been up to and if you elect them again, you will be telling them and you will be telling the world that you agree with what the PLP are doing and I know that you don't agree with what they are doing," Mr Isaacs said.

He said that those who were afraid in 1982 or who were just a little reluctant to throw their weight behind the FNM, should take courage, be wise and vote for the FNM because the future of the Bahamian people and the Bahamas rests with the official opposition.

"I know that a number of civil servants...I know a number of persons whose relatives might have worked for the Government were just a little timid but I want to impress upon you tonight and I will continue and my colleagues will continue to impress upon you that we now have a majority of the voters in the Bahamas today.

"And we must hold on to that majority," he said. "The only way that we can lose is if we allow ourselves to be intimidated by the PLP, if we allow this intimidation to keep us from registering and keep us from going to the polls."

"But I know, from what I have observed, that that is not going to happen this time," he added.

"So, my brothers and sisters, be of good courage, take heart

in the knowledge that whenever that election is called, we of the Free National Movement are going to be ready, we are going to be prepared and we are going to win," Mr Isaacs said.

In her remarks, Yamacraw MP Mrs Janet Bostwick told the crowd: "We are not sitting down and doing nothing at all. Don't be afraid of that. We are all around now preparing for the election."

She said that the FNM is putting together a plan for reconstruction of the country when it takes over the Government because the country needs to be built again from the bottom up.

"And so, we have got a lot of work to do and we have got dedicated people who are prepared to do that work," she said, urging women to come out and join the FNM Women's

Association and let their views be heard.

FNM Chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield said that from what the nation has heard, it tells us that the evil that surrounds many young people has got to stop otherwise all of our youth will be destroyed.

"And it is unfair for a few to have long millions of dollars at the expense of the remainder of our nation," Mr Whitfield declared.

He said the FNM asks for God's help in the struggle because it could only have been God's hands which could have caused the action that has taken place so suddenly to put so many Bahamians in possession of so many pieces of information "to let us all know that our nation is in danger."

"We need to pray," Mr Whitfield said. "We need to ask God's further help to assist us

in bringing our nation Free."

Mr Whitfield said that Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling and the PLP, will come with a whole lot of nonsense.

"They will come talking about all of the money that they have. One Minister has declared that within a 12-month period, he has made \$3 million. Many questions arise. Where could he have gotten that money from? Maybe he has an answer. But it seems to most of us that that's a lot of money to come out of nowhere when a man is on a salary," he said.

He said that many more rallies of this kind will be held in many more parts of New Providence and in the islands.

"But the most important job is really for you...for you to talk to one...to two...to three...to as many of your friends and ask them to join the Free National Movement," he said.

U.S. Support for FNM

Nassau THE HERALD in English 3 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text]

AT THE OUTSET Kendal Isaacs travelled to Florida in the United States, and in his address to the exclusive Tiger Bay Club, he asked the Americans for their support in the FNM's attempt to overthrow the PLP government.

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS came the first blow to our bank secrecy laws due to pressure brought by a decision of the United States' Supreme Court.

AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, Leonard Archer and his gang were giving assurances to certain covert agents that the "Leonard Archer Affair" was not about communism but about confrontation and the

eventful collapse of the PLP government.

THEN THE NBC STORY broke. NBC, is of course, America's national broadcasting corporation, which means that it falls under the influence of very influential personalities. The attack was directed at the heart of the PLP government — Lynden Pindling.

IN THE WAKE of all these events, the FNM continues to fan the flames. They say what they want is a general election, because "Pindling and the PLP government gotta go"!

IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR that valuable administrations within

our government institutions are in peril, due to the deliberate and calculated actions of foreign corrupters. And the likes of Sir Etienne Dupuch gleefully remind us daily of his predictions that we PLPs would come to no good, and so destroy this country.

ALL OF A SUDDEN, for the first time since 1967, we are seeing shadowy faces of the old guard making their way to their traditional cocktail parties in preparation for a return to "the good old days". This deliverance, they whisper, is at hand!

BY NOW, all fair-thinking patriots must see the play, as this intriguing plot unravels before our very eyes.

THE ONLY variable in the scheme is the Royal Commis-

sion of Inquiry. In spite of all the criticisms, it is still a positive and creative force.

WHEN there are negative powers operating that have a high propensity to destroy, these powers add up to an evil and invidious scheme that is only overcome by a positive, self-cleansing and creative counter force.

EVEN NOW we can see that there is in operation a process of smoking out. A peculiar and novel resistance is underway. Shadows are already beginning to take on recognisable features. Soon will come the inevitable death from over-exposure to purifying smoke. Then PLPs can renew their pledge to the great task of national reconstruction, through an even more enlightened use of hard won political power.

Exposure of FNM Election Guide

Nassau THE HERALD in English 3 & 10 Mar 84

[3 Mar 84 pp 4-5, 6]

[Text] Part II [Part I unavailable]

FRUSTRATED because the Herald is in possession of their five point general election guide plan and furiously angry over such drastic and severe leaks in their party, the three men who control two different segments of the Opposition Free National Movement have embarked upon a treacherous plan to out wit their own colleagues and plunge the nation into chaos and possible political violence.

IT was helter skelter this week as the Herald contacted various persons associated with the FNM and quizzed them over what we regard as the hard core facts surrounding secretive meetings held at

FNM Mackey Street headquarters over the last three weeks and a highly confidential conclave in Grand Bahama two weeks ago which has drawn a line of demarcation for pro Whitfield, pro Isaacs, pro Ar-

thur Foulkes and Orville Turnquest, pro J. Henry Bostwick and Arlington Butler candidates for general election.

NONE dare cross either line because of the fear of what

could become their ultimate destiny.

READERS would recall that we broke the exclusive story nearly four weeks ago as told by two high ranking members of the FNM about the plan which the party had adopted to take it to general elections. We said then that we would have to research these men's claims and carefully check the facts before we came back to you our readers with the honest facts.

THE meetings we have had with these men have taken us from High Rock in Grand Bahama to Marsh Harbour, Abaco and Nicholls Town, Andros in pursuit of the truth.

WE said originally that these two men had become disillusioned with the party because of what they felt was a dangerous course the party had embarked upon to secure a general election victory and we stated that the identity of these men had to remain a deep secret because of fear they both had over what could happen to them and their families if certain persons in the FNM learnt who they are.

WE need hardly remind our readers of the dark and bitter cup that young Bahamian husband and father Raymond Barry Major, had to drink that eventful night at Perpall Tract in 1972 when the order came from "the boss" that he must die because he "has been shooting off his mouth." He was gunned down.

BOTH of our sources have also taken out exorbitant life insurance policies over the last month and are contemplating writing to the Commissioner of Police informing him of the inherent danger they might face if certain persons in the FNM learns their identity.

"THIS is the most important yet most dangerous thing I have ever done in my life. I feel that my country needs me and at the end of the day whether I live or die to see the outcome of this thing, I would nonetheless have done something for my country," one of the men stated last Sunday as we completed our interviews taped huddled together along with our (The Herald) lawyer in our parked car at South Ocean Beach.

AS we dropped the men off to where they had parked their car on a Haitian-ran farm on Cow Pen Road, one of them turned to the lawyer and said, "we had done our part . . . as citizens . . . a big sacrifice has been made. But this country comes before any party whether it is FNM, PLP or Vanguard."

MOST of the important information these men shared with us will have to be passed on to the Police and law enforcement authorities in the United States. When the Herald is assured that these two law enforcement agencies done the necessary work on the information, that would be obviously hampered if we went public with it first, we will then endeavor to share as much as possible of it with you our readers.

BUT we leave this much with you on that area of the interviews:

— The Prime Minister has already connected the FNM, the Tribune and NBC with a plot.

— Several sinister trips have been made to the U.S. by the FNM in recent months.

— A strange account believed to be serviced by questionable figures in the U.S. has been uncovered.

— There is a connection with Junior Rolle and J. Henry Bostwick, it is reported.

— The FNM knew beforehand of the Sammy Daddy O Miller / John Rolle set up by an underworld drug dealer and may have encouraged it.

— Colombian drug trafficker Joe Lehder was a client of the FNM's Orville Turnquest and so was Robert Vesco. What is the connection?

— Brian Ross, the controversial NBC reporter who is spreading the lies and distortions for the FNM met with a high ranking FNM figure in a Fort Lauderdale hotel recently.

— Maurice Moore, C.A. Smith and Cecil Wallace Whitfield are in a business together.

— Larry Pinder, the man named as spy by Prime Minister Pindling has collected information for Henry Bostwick on other matters.

— Project Masters, the American public relations agency retained in the 1982 general elections by the FNM to conduct their campaign is still on retainer and preparing a series of scandalous thrusts into the Bahamas with pamphlets, stickers, fly sheets and the Torch. This may be done by plane in the Family Islands.

— Money is being paid to people to keep their mouth shut or come forward with lies and deceptions.

— Emmanuel Pelecanos has already told of Kenny Cartwright's threat on his life with hit men.

— The mysterious Dr. Alexander alias Robert Williams and Germain Torres P. may have enjoyed the same comforts of Mr. Andrew Antippas. Somebody "Looked after him".

PART III

ERIS MONCUR, the man who sacrificed his entire public service pension for the FNM, Rudy McSweeney, the man who fought two elections for the FNM and Alvy Penn, one of the party's most energetic and promising adherents are among those to be ground into the dirt as the treacherous Opposition Candidates Committee moves to carry out a "what Mr. Isaacs and Mr. Whitfield want slate."

ONLY Arthur Foulkes is using his post on the Committee to ensure that he and Orville Turnquest's position in the party are assured but the others are working overtime to please Mr. Isaacs while others don't give a hell about the puppet leader since it is Mr. Cecil Wallace Whitfield who will lead the party into general elections, our source said.

MR. ISAACS, has become very quiet of late ever since he got his fingers and knuckles rapped over irresponsible statements he made letting his party's secrets out of the bag. And our source says that although Mr. Isaacs has consented to go to Government Hill as Governor General under an FNM Government deep down he is sorely saddened that the party has no more need for him.

"THEY were even rethinking the position. But when Kendal Isaacs let Soapy Whitfield put him in that trick at the Sweet Music Man rally even Foulkes realised that Isaacs may be more of a liability and ripe target for the PLP if he remains at the helm of the party during crucial general elections," the source said.

THE other former FNM candidate said, "Isaacs still got some pull in the party and he is really using his powers as Leader under the Constitution to stay alive."

BUT Mr. Isaacs would really like to wake up and find that it is all a big nightmare then having to deal with the reality of the situation, the source said.

MEANWHILE Whitfield has moved to clean up his image in the party and recently took a third wife. Mr. Isaacs has had four wives and no children. Mr. Whitfield has children with two of his wives.

THE Whitfield wedding took place in Grand Bahama and many of Whitfield's supporters down there think they may have been slighted by the Leader because they were not invited to the wedding.

MANY former FNM candidates were not invited to the wedding.

WHITFIELD is also using his pawn at the Torch, Lionel

Dorsett to ensure that Arthur Foulkes; the real editor of that gutter rag does not attempt to discredit him in the newspaper as Mr. Foulkes has done to Mr. Whitfield in previous publications.

DORSETT has been reportedly promised the nomination for the Centerville Constituency by Mr. Whitfield in return for keeping an eye on the artful Foulkes.

"LIONEL is in Centerville Food Store just about every night. He walks to the store some times from where he lives. He is becoming a big man in the Centerville Constituency Association of the FNM as he tries to create visibility in preparation for the nomination.

BUT a source says Dorsett badly wanted to contest the St. Agnes seat against Kendal Nottage MP because he has not forgiven Mr. Nottage for encouraging him to take dictation lessons while he was employed at ZNS.

"LIONEL thinks that for a man his size and experience Nottage's encouragement was an insult. But when you really look at it, it was really for the betterment of Lionel. I mean even after he completed those tongue straightening lessons to better pronounce his 'th's' ZNS sent him off on a six month course to the U.S. to further improve himself. But Dorsett does not look at it this way," the former candidate said.

HOWEVER, Dorsett has been told that he cannot have St. Agnes as Mr. Isaacs has reserved that for Charles Virgill, who also hails from that constituency.

"VIRGILL does not know that Whitfield is only going along with this plan because Cecil knows Chuck can't win a seat nowhere in The Bahamas much less his own home. Everybody know how the Virgill's go," the source continued.

"AFTER Virgill get what's coming to him then Cecil will drop him all together," they both agreed.

ASKED what Whitfield had against the hard working law student, the former candidate said that at the FNM's last convention Whitfield badly wanted to be confirmed as

Deputy Leader. But Virgill took the message to the Family Islands delegates upsetting Whitfield's chance of crystallising his political move and for this he has never forgiven Virgill.

AND Bazel Nicholls, the party's former St. Agnes candidate who faces charges of possession of cocaine in the high courts will not run for a seat but will serve as the behind the scenes election co-ordinator.

"ALL it really boils down to is treachery. That is what the FNM is all about, throat slashing, political prostitution and back stabbing," the former candidate said.

"I MEAN all you have to do is look back at the last general election and see what they did to Normon Solomon and his Social Democratic Party and then how they treated Solomon in St. John's to see for yourself that an only good FNM is a defeated FNM," the source said.

SIR Randol Fawkes, who proclaimed his new found loyalties to the FNM has reportedly also struck a deal with Isaacs and has been promised the Ministry of Labour under the FNM Government. Sir Randol is now Working on Whitfield to get the other part of the portfolio — the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MOST of the hierarchy members of the party are saddened that Sir Randol only just surfaced and has been given a Cabinet posting and this has been the subject of much talk in the FNM at Rudy's Satellite Lounge and the Family Island Restaurant and Arlington Butler's Paradise Island cabana.

ARLINGTON BUTLER has reportedly told all of his colleagues that no matter what he will be in the Cabinet as Minister of Health or less he and Henry Bostwick will start to make waves that no ship of state can stay afloat in.

BUT ALAS George Wilson cannot even brag about hopes of a seat in a FNM controlled Parliament while his other colleagues dream. He learnt a bitter lesson at the November Convention when he was set up by his colleagues and did not

come close to securing a seat on the FNM council.

GREEKS Pericles Maillis and his father, Alexander are also reportedly moving behind the scenes to secure their positions.

MR. ISAACS has reportedly said that Pericles can bring his experience as former Crown Council and defence attorney to the post of Attorney General. While the elder Mr. Maillis has reportedly impressed upon the party the feasibility of having a Ministry of Family Island Development created for him to hold.

AND poor Desmond Edwards has just about everything going against him. His accent is wrong. Many of his colleagues think that there might be a negative reaction in the party if he is allowed to contest a seat because they think he is a cultist. Edwards reportedly belongs to the World Wide Church of controvesial Hubert W. Armstrong, who rates only to

Etienne Dupuch in his predictions of destruction and hypocrisy.

WHITFIELD also reportedly thinks that Eris Moncur is a little too soft spoken for the Cat Island seat and he will be dropped.

PIERRE DUPUCH will not get a Ministry in the FNM Government but will serve as chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. Mr. Butler will go to Health.

DR. ELWOOD DONALDSON has reportedly decided to sit this FNM election out.

"DOC" feels that too much treachery is going on and he rather not be part of it at all," the source revealed.

AND Wendell Jones, who has roots in Englerston will get the nomination over Alvy Penn for that seat.

"BOTH Cecil and Isaacs think that Jones carries himself more executive like than Alvy and can appeal to the older people as well as the young. Unlike Penn, who seems to only appeal to the young. We

know that the FNM also thinks that to unseat Clifford Darling a combination of forces from both generations is needed for the seat," the former candidate said.

AND Autrey Bullard has been told by Mr. Whitfield that he will be taken care of. Mr. Bullard will reportedly go to the Prime Minister's office as special assistant to Mr. Whitfield if he does not accept the post of Minister of Education. Mr. Bullard has single handedly with just one J. Byron's white sheet and one Cannon label pillow case staged a demonstration against the Government and he recently put the icing on his political cake, when he introduced Mr. Whitfield at the party's November election.

PAUL MOSS will lose to Lipstick Williamson to return to Acklins. UBP magnates Geoffrey Johnstone and Basil Kelly have also reportedly told Mr. Isaacs to look over his shoulder.

[10 Mar 84 pp 4-5]

[Text]

THE FORMER Bee Gees tune "It's a Tragedy" can best describe the events that have taken place in the Opposition Free National Movement over the past week.

ISAACS, Whitfield, Turnquest and Foulkes now see crumbling before their very eyes the wicked autocracy contemplated forcing onto an unsuspecting Bahamian public.

ISAACS is having third thoughts about Government Hill. Whitfield may be sent to another "hill". Turnquest is polishing up on his banking skills and Foulkes has reportedly become over-emotional.

BUT we in the Herald are not in the least bit sorry for these men. They have brought about their own destruction. Blind, greed, pettiness, and advice from Cassius Moss and A. Leonard Archer would destroy the gods.

PART IV

KENDAL GEORGE LAMONT ISAACS is a broken man. Cecil Wallace Whitfield now sees the big FNM plot to topple the Government all around him. Every day more and more evidence is brought to light flushing those once previously faceless,

**nameless persons out of hiding into the public light
and exposing them once and for all as traitors.**

MEANWHILE Maurice Moore and Cornelius A. Smith, the FNM's so called doberman pinchers in Grand Bahama have become bleating sheep as the evidence mounts against the FNM. Poor Cecil who may have earned the name "Super Fly" is trying his best to comfort Maurice and C.A. but today even the most choicest and meatiest of bones cannot assuage their guilty appetite. Can Super Fly now deliver them from the damned portals of destruction that await them or will he himself accompany them on his darkened journey to the underworld of Hades.

IT all began two weeks ago. The PLP had said it time and time again that we had nothing to fear. The the evil corrupters would be flushed out of hiding and laid bare to the Bahamian public to see them in their most wretched hour.

CALLS began coming in. Information poured in. And the rascal FNM went on the run.

ARTHUR FOULKES did as his picture on the front page suggests. No one in the FNM could believe it. Not even Bazel Nicholls. Curtis McMillan reportedly told a close friend that he suffered and he sees no reason why his other colleagues should escape.

MR. ISAACS was left holding the proverbial end of the stick. He moved quickly to salvage the wreck of his party. First of all he thought they would need a new image. One source has it that Isaacs not thinking as usual bowed to pressure from Cecil and dumped Foulkes ahead of the party's public relations chief and appointed a staunch pro Cecil man in the likes of one George Capron to that office.

FOULKES was furious that "his leader could do this to him."

AND secretly Lionel Dorsett, the editor of the FNM dish rag called the Torch was telling his friends Jeff Scavella and Fred Williamson that the post should be taken from Foulkes and to go to him.

"IT'S part of my responsibilities as editor. I should also be the PR man. I have plenty experience in that field," he was reported to have said.

THEN as Mr. Isaacs maneuvered with all the advice he could get from Orville Turnquest, the blow struck.

THE Solicitor General Burton Hall lashed out that his former colleague had told him that Mr. Isaacs paid money to officers in the Attorney General's office to expedite fixing cases for him.

MR. ISAACS himself was once Attorney General under the wicked racist UBP regime.

THE HERALD learnt later that Mr. Isaacs visited the AG's office Wednesday afternoon. Efforts to determine what he had gone there for remained fruitless.

ALTHOUGH one source jokingly quipped that it was like in the movies with the accused returning to the spot of the alleged crime.

MR. TURNQUEST then was left to pull the strings. But he could not effectively do it. After all any day he may be called on to explain his banking skills as he practised for Robert Vesco and Joe Lehder.

IT WAS indeed a shocking state of affairs.

MR. TURNQUEST then reportedly turned the situation over to Mr. Henry Bostwick.

BUT before Mr. Bostwick could even get down to practising his old administrative skills as Leader he was informed that Cassius Moss was loose on the streets and could cause the party irrevocable damage.

MR. BOSTWICK then reportedly had to drop everything and dash off to rectify that situation. A bull let loose in a china shop.

The FNM's image did not improve any at all. Mr. Whitfield had reportedly spoken to Mr. Isaacs late last week informing him that he wanted to have another "Sweet Music man" rally and he did not want Mr. Isaacs to accept any

speaking engagement with the Concerned Citizens Group or else he would not allow him to speak at the rally.

THIS reportedly caused a huge bullabaloo and the rally had to be put off.

WENDELL JONES was reportedly busy trying to get some FNM big shots to dine at his Bay Street business and Alvy Penn reportedly hurt over the Herald's revelations that Jones was trespassing on his nomination in Englestone told his colleagues that he would then run independently and cause a FNM defeat.

ERIS MONCUR and Ellison Kenneth Minnis, former officers of the Bahamas Union of Teachers were blaming A. Leonard Archer, the erstwhile president of the BUT for the situation. Both Minnis and Moncur reportedly feel that Archer is pushing Haldane Chase as a candidate for the FNM and not pushing them.

MR. RICHARD WELLS, brother of Tennyson Wells will get the FNM nomination for North End, Long Island and San Salvador over Minnis. And Mr. Whitfield reportedly feels that Moncur is to "soft spoken" to win Cat Island and should be dropped.

THE ONLY FNM's assured of a nomination are Basil Kelly, Geoffrey Johnstone and Earl Thompson. Mrs. Janet Bostwick, David Bullard and former ZNS news reporter Darrell Miller are fighting it out for the FNM nomination in Bamboo Town it is reported.

Efforts to find out what will become of Tennyson Wells are still hazy. Wells fell into the bad books of his party at their last convention when he reportedly engineered a resolution calling on the party to disallow its Parliamentarians from holding party offices except that of Leader.

MR. WHITFIELD saw this as an attack on him and had to withdraw his bid to be named Deputy Leader of the party. Meanwhile the then secretary general of the FNM Charles Virgil, who works for Mr. Wills

was reportedly out in the Family Islands seeing to it that Mr. Whitfield would fail in his Deputy Leader bid.

AND THEN Mr. Wells unleashed his energies on Turnquest and sought to take the post of Treasurer from the Montagu MP. Mr. Turnquest fought back and Wells had to settle with a position as officer

on the party's finance committee.

MR. WHITFIELD and Mr. Turnquest have never forgiven Mr. Wells for this.

ETIENNE DUPUCH, the arch mogul of deceit and his clone daughter Eileen Dupuch-Carron and their side kick Athena Damianos have been reportedly instructed by the

FNM to turn a blind eye to the obvious fact that the FNM is falling part bit by bit.

SO DAMINOS to draw public attention from the FNM has been sniffing around chicken coops in Hatchet Bay and finger testing the sewer in Yellow Elder.

It is all one big tragedy.

PLP Officers for 1983-84

Nassau THE HERALD in English 10 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] L. O. PINDLING, S.C., Leader

ARTHUR D. HANNA, S.C., Deputy Leader

BRENVILLE L. HANNA, Chairman

IRRINGTON ISAACS, 1st. Vice-Chairman

NEVILLE ADDERLEY, 3rd Vice-Chairman

HASSAM BROWN, 4th. Vice-Chairman

BERLIN D. PRATT, Secretary-General

PEGGY FRANCIS, Asst./Secretary-General

PERCY MUNNINGS, S.C., Treasurer

JAMES MINNS, Asst./Treasurer

C. LEANDER MINNS, M.P., Trustee

A. F. Pindling, S.C., Trustee

GRANVILLE BUTLER, Trustee

Call for Antidrug Drive

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text] IN A hard-hitting address against drug abuse in the Bahamas, Opposition Leader, Kendal Isaacs called for a strong, co-ordinated national effort, particularly from government agencies and the Christian church to help combat the problem at the earliest opportunity.

Speaking at the 62nd annual Church of God Convention last night Mr Isaacs said there was no doubt that drug abuse is the single most destructive force at work in the country today, growing by leaps and bounds and affecting every section of the society.

"This insidious plague is eating away at the very foundations of our society and I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that the peace, tranquility and even the good order of our community are being eroded with every day that passes and are in grave danger of being

destroyed altogether," Mr Isaacs said.

Mr Isaacs told delegates attending the convention that the demons of violence, dishonesty, greed, selfishness, drunkenness and drug abuse have been let loose amongst us.

"Fortunately, it appears that the churches in the Bahamas are, for the most part, vigorously preparing to extend the battle with the forces of evil which threaten our society," the opposition leader said.

Pointing out that useful citizens, successful businessmen and women have been reduced overnight to "physical and spiritual dereliction and begging on the city streets," Mr Isaacs said what is most distressing is the heavy toll of drug abuse on the nation's youth.

"The problem of unemployment among the youth is now compounded as many of those who are qualified and

holding down good jobs are also being destroyed overnight and reduced to unspeakable degradation," Mr Isaacs said.

"The young men and women to whom we look to be the fathers and mothers of Christian families in the future are being ruined in increasing numbers by drug abuse and young women especially are being exploited by unconscionable persons to satisfy their greed and perverted desires," he said.

Saying that he expects a great national debate on the question of drug running in the Bahamas in a few months time, Mr Isaacs also said that whatever comes out of the debate the broken minds and bodies of hundreds, maybe thousands of young Bahamians will have to be dealt with for years to come.

"In the meantime," he said, "we must waste not a day in bringing together a strong,

co-ordinated national effort to combat drug abuse and its tragic effects. I suggest that Government agencies, the medical profession, civic organizations, youth clubs and associations and, most importantly, the entire Christian church be brought together in a mighty co-ordinated assault on drug abuse," Mr Isaacs said.

The opposition leader said it is imperative that centers for rehabilitation be set up wherever they are needed in scattered communities so that victims can receive the specialist medical, social and spiritual assistance they so desperately need.

"Many are sinking already and we must throw out the life

lines now. I believe that this church and all the other churches, together with the people, can make a great contribution to the practical and spiritual advancement of our nation," Mr Isaacs said, suggesting that perhaps it should be started with a national day of prayer.

CSO: 3298/720/721

POLICE QUESTION WORKERS PARTY CHIEF ON POSSIBLE SEDITION

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Feb 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] Workers Party chairman Rodney Moncur denied a report circulating today that he had plans to "take over" HM Prison, Fox Hill.

However, he said he had been called in by the police and warned that the Attorney General might charge him with sedition.

Reports reaching THE TRIBUNE said that starting today, security at the Fox Hill Prison will be "beefed up" as a result of information passed on to the superintendent by the Internal Security Division of the Police Force. However, Police Commissioner Gerald Bartlett said he knew nothing about this. And prison superintendent Neville Taylor could not be contacted for comment.

Mr Moncur, a well-known political agitator, said the reports that he plans to take over the prison are a "fantasia."

"If they are, in fact, taking that kind of precaution, it is being done merely because of the fantasies they are having," he said.

Mr Moncur said he was recently questioned by Insp Basil Dean of the Criminal Investigation Department about statements he had made at a public rally on January 6. Mr Moncur at the time criticised the absolute discharge given to Leslie Pindling, younger son of the Prime Minister, after he had pleaded guilty to possession of 15 grams of marijuana.

He also made certain comments about members of the police force and persons serving time at the prison on drug convictions.

Mr Moncur said Insp Dean and an Insp Bullard told him the matter would be placed before the Attorney General who would decide whether he should be charged with sedition.

CSO: 3298/721

LEADER GIVES RATIONALE BEHIND NEW POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Mar 84 p 4

[Text]

A NEW political association, United People Congress, was recently formed under the chairmanship of Augustus Harris Smith, Jr.

Mr Smith has called on the "best brains" and the most "honest and highly moral" citizens of the Bahamas to take up the mantle of leadership, in addition to the politics of conciliation and amelioration, which he said would be the only solution to the problems facing the nation today.

"As most of you are no doubt fully aware, our country is going through a socio-political and socio-economic metamorphosis, the likes of which it has never gone through before in its history," Mr Smith said.

"What too is painfully evident, is the fact that solutions to these problems would require more than the politics of confrontation, victimization, discrimination, and nepotism, which latter types of political behaviour would seem to be at the behest of the political divide which prevails over our country," he said.

Mr Smith said that members of his party, United People Congress, would be the first to admit that Prime Minister Lynden Pindling has been "without a doubt a gifted and shrewd political leader."

"However," Mr Smith said, "we feel that, as has happened to even greater political leaders in the past, the acquisition of too much power has left his party bereft of the necessary moral judgment, scruples and humility, which are necessary to solve the problems facing us today."

"We feel," continued Mr Smith, "that like a star, he has seen his nova and is now fast on his way to becoming a 'black-hole' surrounded by a band of political cling-ons who hover above it like vultures. Obviously then, this state of affairs cannot be permitted to continue."

Mr Smith said that on the other hand, the Free National Movement would, at best, provide a short term relief from the present political malaise.

"As an ultra conservative organization, it is felt that they would not be prepared to attack the root cause of the many problems which face us," Mr Smith said. "Another inescapable point of fact is that a majority of the leaders of the FNM are of the same ilk as the leaders in the PLP."

Because of this, Mr Smith said, that the leadership of the UPC has decided to take up the challenge for political leadership. In order to become a member of this party, Mr Smith

said that one only has to believe in the diligency and justice of government in a free and true democracy wherein the rule of law prevails. Prospective members are also expected to be morally upright, supportive of the capilization of labour and the democriatization of capital; be in favour of a revamping of the current education system and the treatment of teachers; agree that a concrete solution to the problem of illegal aliens be brought about; appreciate the need for the socio-political edification of the people so as to enhance and elevate their consciousness; and be prepared to bring about a final stop to the vexing illegal drugs situation.

Mr Smith said that his party has an emblem, the symbols of which are the lignumvitae tree representing firmness, the scales of Justice representing the same and the golden cup or chalice which represents a commitment to the people's cause.

Mr Smith said that in due course his party will be submitting a manifesto to come out under the label of the "Lignum Papers," where they will set out in elaborate details how they propose to approach the current problems including their proposals for constitutional and legislative reforms.

WORKERS RALLY AS LABOR DISPUTE HITS MINISTRY OF WORKS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Mar 84 pp 1, 6

[Text]

NEARLY 60 Ministry of Works employees demonstrated in front of the ministry for several hours today before going back to work, while union members and the general manager tried to settle a labour dispute.

According to union vice president Mr Charles Demeritte the union is "tired of being pushed around by the management team."

Mr Demeritte said the union met with general manager George Moss and is demanding an apology from management on behalf of a cashier who was harrassed, and a job description for workers.

According to Mr Demeritte, several weeks ago, a cashier was given counterfeit money which was sent to the bank. The bank called the Corporation which in turn contacted the police. Investigating officers reportedly questioned the cashier for about seven hours and searched her home and that of a friend.

The union consequently demanded an apology from management. Yesterday, according to Mr Demeritte, during the rain, a supervisor reportedly ordered a skilled worker to wash the department's truck or face suspension.

"The worker got scared and did it, although that was not his job. He reported it to us today. We signed a contract with management in December and six weeks after that, we were supposed to get a job description. Up to now, we don't have it. If we had it, the man would have known that that wasn't a part of his job," said Mr Demeritte.

"We are tired of being pushed around by management and so we decided to demonstrate. We began about 8 am today and after the meeting, workers went back on the job," he added.

According to him, the union is to receive the job description in a few days. "We will wait to see if we will take further action. We have filed a dispute with management. If nothing is resolved we will take it up with Labour."

Mr Demeritte also said that Mr Charles Turnquest of the Ministry of Labour attended this morning's meeting. Union members at the meeting were Drexel Dean, president, Charles Demeritte, vice-president; Dwayne Cooper, treasurer; Edward Timothy, trustee; John Munnings, shop steward and John Cooper, asst secretary.

CSO: 3298/722

PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS; RUNDOWN OF ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] The House of Assembly was adjourned to Wednesday, April 4, after a day long sitting yesterday during which members soundly rejected two opposition-sponsored requests for select committees, the only matters dealt with on the short agenda.

House Leader and Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna indicated after the first request for a select committee was defeated, that the Government did not intend to deal with any of the two bills.

Rejected was a request moved by Montagu MP Orville Turnquest for a select committee to consider the hiring, refusal to hire and/or firing of FNM supporter Miss Judy Mae Lewis by management of the Cable Beach Casino.

Also defeated was another request, moved by Clarence Town MP James Knowles, seeking a select committee to consider matters relating to the operation of the Government-owned farm and ancillary facilities and properties at Hatchet Bay, Eleuthera, with particular regard to the reduction or closing down of any part of the operation and its effect on the residents of Hatchet Bay and Eleuthera.

Introduced for its first reading was a Bill for an Act to regulate the creation, termination and management of Time-Sharing Projects.

The bill, tabled by Economics Affairs Minister Alfred Maycock, will come up for its second and third reading and passing at the next sitting of the House.

Mr Hanna, also Minister of Finance, introduced a resolution seeking the House's approval for Government to guarantee the repayment by the Bahamas Development Bank to the National Insurance Board of the loan of \$3,500,000, and the payment of interest on the loan.

The \$3.5 million was negotiated by the bank from NIB to lend to deserving borrowers for agriculture, small scale industry and fisheries.

The Deputy Prime Minister also introduced on behalf of Housing and National Insurance Minister Hubert Ingraham, a resolution asking the House to approve the National Insurance (Contributions) Regulations, 1984.

Also tabled was a resolution by Yamacraw MP Mrs Janet Bostwick seeking stiffer penalties, including corporal punishment, for sexual offences, and a request by Clarence Town MP James Knowles for a select committee in connection with a packing house at Long Island.

The House met until 5:45 pm before adjourning until Wednesday, April 4, at 10:30 am.

CSO: 3298/722

NASSAU PILOTS GROUP FINDS AIRPORT 'SERIOUSLY DEFICIENT'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] Nassau International Airport has been ruled "seriously deficient" and been awarded a red star rating by an international association of pilots.

The International Federation of Airline Pilots Association (IFALPA), which represents pilots of 65 nations, awards a red star, its second lowest ranking to those airports it thinks are "seriously deficient." The Bahamas Professional Pilots Union told a news conference last week that it was gravely concerned about the safety standards of some of the airports in the country.

"Nassau International Airport, in particular, has had a red star rating from the international authorities for a number of years. As a tourist destination, this places us in a very bad light," a senior spokesman for the union said.

The union revealed Thursday that the Civil Aviation Department has waived a rule for Bahamasair so that it can operate night flights into Governor's Harbour on Visual Flight Rules (VFR) instead of required Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), although the airport isn't equipped to handle VFR flights after dark. Union president Godfrey Symonette inspected the Eleuthera airport on Monday and discovered that, among other things, the VASI (visual approach lights) are not in use and 10 approach lights didn't have bulbs.

Minister of Transport Philip Bethel, who is responsible for aviation, is also the representative for Governor's Harbour. The union claimed Civil Aviation waived the rules for Bahamasair without checking to see if the airport was equipped to handle VFR flights after dark.

The rules were also waived for night flights to the Rock Sound and Treasure Cay airports. The union said there are no functioning VASI lights at the Rock Sound Airport and the fire truck has not been operational for a number of years. It is further understood that most airports don't have a single portable fire extinguisher, not to mention a fire engine.

Friday night, the Minister took to the air waves to criticise the story in Thursday's TRIBUNE, which he claimed had been attributed to the president of the union. This is not correct. The story was not attributed to Mr Symonette.

Mr Bethel said that Government over a number of years has sought to improve and upgrade airports in the Family Islands to enhance the tourism potential. He said that Bahamasair has operated night flights into Governor's Harbour during the winter season for a number of years and that the decision to fly into Governor's Harbour after dark was done after "close consultation" with the Civil Aviation Department.

Mr Bethel said "the question of reconsideration does not arise as all efforts are made to adhere to the standards laid down by" Civil Aviation. He ignored the points raised about the VASI lights not being in use and 10 approach lights being without bulbs. And, while he singled out THE TRIBUNE, he made no mention of THE GUARDIAN, which published the same story.

On Saturday, the union received information that the Federal Aviation Administration will visit Governor's Harbour to carry out flight checks of the lighting system and navigational aid at the airport. However, this is to deal with just two of the deficiencies mentioned. It's understood that the electrical transformer doesn't have the capacity to carry the load of the runway's high intensity lighting system.

"The thought (about giving the information to the press) is not to embarrass anybody at all, but we would like to see the safety standard elevated. We would like to see the facilities brought up to an international standard," the union spokesman said.

He said the union was extremely concerned about the deterioration of the airports, particularly Nassau International Airport where taxi-way and approach lights don't work, and runway lighting is extremely poor, and communication is bad. The union is also concerned about the attitude of the authorities who, because of pressure being put on them, have taken a "what can I do" stand.

The union wants to know what happened to the radar that the Minister had said would be installed at the airport by March. The spokesman said nothing is being done at the airport to indicate that it will be outfitted with radar within the next two months.

The spokesman said that radar is a must for the safety of the travelling public, particularly in view of the heavy traffic and high performance aircrafts that are operating into Nassau International Airport.

"A couple of weeks ago, one of Bahamasair's pilots was cleared for an instrument approach into Nassau and he just happened to look out of his window. There was a plane coming straight at him, but (flew) over his wing. He was not advised of the presence of this aircraft within feet of him," the spokesman said. [as published]

He said the near mishap could have been avoided if there had been radar. The near collision involved a Boeing 737 and a M&D charter plane.

"We need radar in this country, particularly around the busy international airports for the safety of our passengers and for all involved in the flying business. The question is when? Is it going to take an accident to have these things brought into being?" the spokesman wanted to know.

"I must say that this is not only the concern of the pilots of the national airline, but it is the concern of all pilots from airlines operating in the Bahamas."

In 1977, when traffic at the airport was lighter, an IFALPA Miami spokesman said the need for radar at Nassau Airport was critical.

"The old concept of see and be seen no longer exists. With modern jets, it just isn't possible to spot other planes in time, they go too fast. Whether the weather is clear or not is irrelevant," Capt Elma Laughlin, Miami's IFALPA regional vice-president at the time said.

The union would also like something done about search and rescue around the airport. Although this would be costly, the spokesman said it is of utmost importance. The pilots are concerned that if a plane overshoots the runway and ends up in Lake Kilarney, "the fire engine (crews) are going to stand by the road and watch everybody drown."

The union thinks that the time has come for a Ministry of Aviation.

CSO: 3298/722

BRIEFS

BEC PLANT EXPLOSION--A major explosion in one of the main breakers at the Bahamas Electricity Corporation's Big Pond Plant caused an island-wide blackout yesterday shortly after 2 pm. According to a BEC spokesman the breaker will take up to four weeks to replace. The explosion has left one of three transformers at the plant out of service. However the spokesman said that electricity is being provided by a temporary breaker that was connected some time yesterday afternoon. "Because the areas were switched on at different times, it is difficult to say when power was restored to the island," the spokesman said. He said that the damaged breaker will be removed and replaced by one of two spare breakers at the plant. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/722

ADAMS INTERVIEWED ON ECONOMY, ACHIEVEMENTS, CARICOM

London THE CARIBBEAN & WEST INDIES CHRONICLE in English Apr/May 84 pp 18-19

[Interview with Prime Minister Tom Adams by editor Jeremy Taylor: "Adams: A Taste of Recession Was Good for Us"; date and place not specified]

[Text] *Barbados has been through a fairly rough economic period in the last two or three years. Are those difficulties now over?*

Yes, I'd like to think they're over. Our difficulty has been the fall in overseas demand; the recession in North America reduced the number of tourists coming here, and recessionary conditions generally have reduced demand for our exports. In particular, Trinidad's import licensing has reduced the rate of expansion of our exports to Trinidad. In addition, we had major troubles with our sugar industry arising from the climate — unseasonable rains that devastated the crop for a period of two years. And were it not that, despite the recession, we were still able to have some boom in areas of export manufacturing for outside the Caribbean, we would have been in worse waters.

But now that the North American recession appears to be over, and American tourists are coming here again in great numbers, and now that our strategy of orienting our exports even more outside the Caribbean is beginning to pay off, along with the boom in non-sugar agriculture and the recovery of sugar, we expect that we are entering a better phase in 1984.

Has the economy suffered any permanent damage?

I don't think so; as a matter of fact, in some ways the recession has been good for us. For example, we took the Trinidad market too much for granted; we assumed it was possible to have an aggressive thrust in a close neighbour using the CARICOM agreement without repercussions. In fact we exported so successfully that I think it was inevitable that Trinidad manufacturers would react. Our manufacturers

now have a much greater understanding of the need to diversify their markets, and they are beginning to understand — for example — that garments cannot remain the Barbados staple for ever, and to look at other Caribbean areas and outside the Caribbean.

The recession in sugar has been good for the industry because we finally persuaded the unions and the employers, the owners, to introduce an incentive scheme to stop cane being burned, and it is working. We have also introduced a price support scheme: we advance money to the industry and if they increase the crop in the year after the advance, it is converted into a grant instead of a loan. The changes in tourism are also structural, in that the prices of hotel rooms have been brought down and there has been some rationalisation of staff. So we have put the two and a half years of recession to good use.

Looking forward to the rest of your second term, what are the prospects for the economy?

I think that tourism will recover, though we have an image as an expensive resort, which is a problem we have to get over, and we have to adjust to the preponderance of American tourists, who may spend more but stay a shorter time. I think the industry will resume a growth path which is not as spectacular as the 17, 18 and 20 per cent growth of the late seventies, but more stable and more easily maintained. I think that sugar production will stabilise: we may never again produce the 200,000 tons of sugar we were producing only 15 years ago, but I think we will reach a level which can maintain the viability of the industry without the need for major subsidy. We expect to expand manufacturing a great deal, and we

are going to attack the question of offshore services even more vigorously. The prospects are promising, and should certainly produce good results over a four or five year period.

Looking back at the years since your party came to power in 1976, what would you say are the highlights of the government's record?

I think we gave Barbadians a new faith, a belief that governments really can do something about economic development if they are determined and efficient. For example, unemployment: it's quite high at the moment, about 15 per cent — it surged a bit in the last six months, a lag effect I think — but it is less than it was in the early years of our being in power. It's no use telling the public that — the public has a perception that the government should be bringing unemployment down to single digits and the reduction of unemployment is one of the great achievements.

But we also think that the putting in place of a comprehensive social security system for the island, when complete — the final bricks are now being laid — will be the greatest achievement that any government will ever have — perhaps can ever have — in the island. In the last eight years we've introduced unemployment pay; we have made pensions totally comprehensive for the whole community. We have introduced a national health service on the British model, in which everybody will share the same standard of free primary health care. And the expansion of industry and manufacturing, and of our exports, purely economic achievements, will occupy a high place in the history books in due course.

You have recently tabled a new five-year development plan. How could it change Barbados between now and 1988?

There is going to be a lot of physical change in the island. In the next 18 months or two years a new major arterial road is going to be built; there will be new industrial development along that road — we are getting more applications for new factories than we can handle. The new road systems in the north will have a major impact; they will distribute industry more widely than at present, and will make some difference to residential accommodation as well. The social security system will have a major impact: for example we are doing away with the District Medical Officers who looked after poor people for free, and in future everyone will go to a doctor of their choice. In education we are going to modernise the curriculum; we are going to introduce computer studies in every secondary school, so that everyone will know how to handle a computer keyboard, deal with modern information systems and know what computers are about.

We have started a national cultural foundation, well-endowed and run by artists, to supervise our whole cultural development, and this is already having an impact. When I was a boy, when you went to a dance in London where there were Barbadians and Trinidadians, you could tell the Barbadians by the way they danced — they couldn't dance, while the Trinidadians of course had every movement on earth. I don't think that is true any more. Barbadians have fallen in with the ideals of West Indian culture to an extent that surprises the fuddy-duddies of my generation and even more the fuddy-fuddy-duddies of the older generation. The island is being modernised: we are making it a small developed country. Not as rich as the major developed countries, but with the same sort of per capita income and access to the good things of life as the not-quite-so-well-off countries of western Europe, and approaching the standards of the better-off countries of western Europe and North America.

Barbados had to turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during the recessionary period. What is the status of that relationship now?

We're in the last throes of it, and it doesn't impact very largely on our management policies; the policies that we were carrying out proved acceptable to the IMF, and we are continuing to carry them out. The proof of the pudding has been in the banquet we have enjoyed, because from the day we entered into the IMF programme, things began to turn around in Barbados. The public had every opportunity of perceiving the pros and cons of dealing with the IMF and they came down on the side of the pros and willingly cooperated — the unions very much so, the employers, all sections of the community have buckled down to the job of containing the damage done to our economy by external conditions.

We're not by any means out of the wood: we always operate on a very tight margin of foreign reserves, and that is our only development constraint. We have three months' reserves, as we have had for a very long time, and they have stabilised: they are not growing at a great rate but equally they are not falling. We may very well have to do some more borrowing during the coming financial year, to roll over some of our external borrowing perhaps, but we don't anticipate that we will have to go through another IMF programme — I don't think we need it.

Why has the negotiation of a new taxation treaty with the United States been causing so much trouble?

Because of the intransigent attitude of the United States. We have chosen a particular path of development, which is to offer offshore services. The great majority of businesses which need such services are centred in the US, so there's always an area of potential conflict. We feel particularly hard done by because certain specific services which we offer and which have been taken up in the last few years are threatened by America's wish to put an end to offshore banks for its businesses. We resent it because the Netherlands Antilles have been allowed to continue offshore services to international companies and to offer services to American banks without which the banks can not compete in the international market (which might be a good thing for some of them because they would not be into \$90 billion in Brazil if they couldn't lend overseas). But we consider that, instead of repudiating the existing tax treaty last year, the US could have ended the Netherlands Antilles monopoly and included Barbados among those countries which can offer special facilities to American banks.

This is under negotiation, but I'm not particularly hopeful about it. We will now have to take counsel and see how to reshape our offshore regime to take account of the fact that perhaps we may not decide to sign a tax treaty with the US at all, we may simply not renew it.

The government has been under fire from the opposition and the doctors for at least contemplating giving the St George's School of Medicine a Barbados campus. What would be in it for Barbados?

The benefit of an offshore medical school is the presence in your country of foreigners spending money. Those visitors who bring in money from other countries are the most welcome visitors, and students spend more than even millionaire tourists because they stay in the country for nine months. That is the main benefit — I see no particular benefit from the medical point of view. We view a medical school as we would view any offshore business: I'm perfectly happy to see a law school set up, we have lots of schools that teach Venezuelans business English — we encourage students to come here, and to that extent it is part of our policy.

The matter has quite unnecessarily got caught up in politics. Suffice it to say that I see all the disadvantages that those who are against it put forward. There are already Barbadians graduating as doctors in the St George's School of Medicine: so the controversy is a very foolish and artificial one, if it is suggested that this is a kind of terrible bucket shop whose practitioners should be thrown out of the

window and treated as pariahs when some of them are going to be members of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners before very long.

The combination of trade problems and tensions over Grenada have led to speculation that CARICOM, the Caribbean Community, is no longer viable. What is your feeling?

We all want CARICOM to last. Politically, CARICOM's difficulties as I see them at the moment are that we seek an association closer than can easily be comprehended within CARICOM's unanimity rule. It is easy to be unanimous if you don't have much to decide. As soon as you have a lot to decide, the unanimity rule creates enormous frustrations. A great deal of the Grenada difficulty was generated by that unanimity rule, by the necessity for argument rather than the possibility of decision. I therefore support very strongly (Jamaican Prime Minister Edward) Seaga's ideas for the abolition of the unanimity rule. They were discussed in Barbados before the last meeting in Trinidad, and the protocol gained acceptance from all except Guyana.

The economic difficulties derive from the fact that the largest market — Trinidad — is going through a period when its manufacturers are having difficulty competing with lower-cost manufacturers in other member states. It is the old thing about the immense difficulty of having very rich and very poor countries side by side in an economic grouping: it is bound to cause some kind of friction. There is not really a great width between Barbados and Trinidad in terms of economic development, yet there's a friction between us: so much more is the potential friction with a much smaller country. There is the situation of Jamaica also, which is explosive in itself — it is always difficult to exist with a country which is going through a period of great economic instability. I only hope that the West Indian capacity for snatching disunity from the jaws of goodwill and fellow feeling will not reassert itself and damage us again for another 10 or 15 years.

Trinidad has recently resorted to import licensing, a strategy which you have described as negative. Perhaps Trinidad in its circumstances had no alternative?

A regime of import licensing is a very negative step. One of the first things we did when we came to power was to do away with as many import licences as we possibly could, even though our foreign reserves were flying out of the window faster than anyone could fly after them. We were down to two weeks' reserves within a couple of months of taking power. But we've always been convinced that

import licensing is no way to stop a drain on foreign reserves: it cannot do it, it never has in any country and it never will. And we did away with it. We took steps to improve our exports, we made our imports more expensive, we looked at what people seemed to be wasting their money on — at that time it was principally motor-cars — and we made it much more difficult to buy motor-cars and other big appliances and we staunch the flow that way. I'm not being critical, but I look on those as positive steps — increase your exports, re-direct your resources to areas that are productive rather than consumer areas. But I use the words in economic terms, not as pejorative or critical terms at all.

How advanced are plans for a regional security force?

A plan has been evolved and we are now discussing financing. Because the Eastern Caribbean is in no state to run an army, and I could not dream of asking my colleagues in the Eastern Caribbean, with their development needs, to share the cost. But the project could be quite advantageous to Barbados in the early stages because the Barbados Defence Force would be the nucleus.

Late last year you withdrew the work permit of a leading Caribbean journalist, Rickey Singh, who was based in Barbados as the editor of Caribbean Contact. Does such a drastic step indicate any change in Barbados' commitment to press freedom?

I think it's really time, in the interest of journalists themselves, to say something on this. We have made no statement on it because the overall picture contained a number of security elements. But Mr Singh knows something of the things we know about his activities. He sought a meeting with me and I specifically

questioned him, so he knows the government is concerned over his contacts with intelligence officers from foreign countries. These contacts took on a particular intensity at the time of the Grenada crisis. He never denied it; he said he did not know they were intelligence officers. But he did not explain how they came to his house in the early hours of the morning, or why he took evasive action when visiting places where meetings were expected to take place. If he was honest, he would say that this occupied a great deal of his interview with me on the matter of his work permit and his general conduct and acceptability in Barbados.

Are you confident of winning a third term in 1986?

I never make prophecies: I think it is tempting providence. From my early study of Greek I learned the dangers of hubris.

Some serious allegations about the accuracy of the electoral list have been recently made in the Nation newspaper by Mr Cameron Tudor. Would you comment on his allegations that the list is unreliable?

That is ridiculous. It is meaningless, and not worth commenting on.

One of Barbados' most successful exports to Trinidad is a calypsonian, the Mighty Gabby, whose tune Government Boots attacks you as a militarist, and has been extremely popular during the 1983 Carnival season. What do you think of the tune?

There is something amusing and instructive in Trinidad calypsos. But *Boots* is unpleasant and most unfair to the Barbados Defence Force. I wonder if calypsonians in Trinidad offer the same sort of unmitigated hostility to the police force, the defence force or other organised bodies? It trades on hatred, unleavened by any trace of humour. ■

HOUSE RATIFIES CULTURAL EXCHANGE PACT WITH MEXICO

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 1 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] The House of Representatives has now ratified the Belize-Mexico Cultural and Educational Exchange Agreement signed in Mexico City on Mar. 14.

The three-year agreement was signed at the second meeting of the Belize-Mexico Mixed Commission on Mar. 12-14.

Minister of Education, Sports, Culture and Economic Development, Mr Said Musa signed the agreement for Belize and the Under Secretary for Planning and Cultural Affairs in the Foreign Ministry, Licenciado Ricardo Valero signed for Mexico.

The agreement provides, among other things for Mexico to assist Belize in the construction of primary schools and a National Museum of Anthropology and History in Belmopan; technical assistance for the design and layout of the grounds of the National Stadium in Belize City; technical assistance in the organization of degree courses in the fields of economics, public administration and international politics.

Under the programme Mexico is offering more than 25 scholarships at university level and for radio and TV technicians. Belize is offering five two-year scholarships for Mexican students to study the English Language in Belize.

In the field of Culture, Mexico has invited Belize to take part in several music, dance and theatre festivals. Belize will donate to the Mexican Ministry of Public Education an ethnographic exposition, as well as a display Belizean arts and crafts.

The agreement provides for a number of exchange visits to take place between the two countries and involving individuals and groups in the fields of art education, music, dance and theatre.

The exchange visits include an offer by Belize for a concert tour by outstanding pianist Francis Reneau. Mexico has accepted the offer and will study the possibility of recording Mr Reneau's presentations for radio, cinema and television broadcast in Belize.

Belize will also send a folkloric dance group to Mexico for performances during the second term of 1985.

Belize and Mexico will also cooperate in the fields of anthropology and history.

The third meeting of the Belize-Mexico Mixed Commission for Cultural and Educational Exchange will be held in Belmopan on a date to be fixed through diplomatic channels.

CSO: 3298/724

HOUSE APPROVES BUDGET; THOMPSON LEADS OPPOSITION

Report on Debate

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 1 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] The budget for fiscal 1984/85 was passed in the House Friday, March 23, after a long and heated debate.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mr George Price tabled the budget proposals for \$180.33 million on March 16.

During the debate the Prime Minister told the House that times are difficult and will be difficult for some time and this had brought about a reduction in expenditure. He said Government is seeking to improve the situation and despite falling expenditure there was hope for recovery.

Mr Price said representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank confirmed that the budget was a good austerity budget and that they saw no need for devaluation of the Belize Dollar.

Leader of the opposition, Mr Curl Thompson, described the budget as "a colonial economic plan." He said Belize is becoming a begging nation.

Minister of Home and Foreign Affairs, Mr V H Courtenay replied to the charges. He said the budget is a clear indication of confidence and growth and that the leader of the Opposition had failed to see the positive side.

Mr Courtenay denied Opposition charges that the economy of Belize is in stagnation with an inability to break through and to earn more revenue. In offering a more optimistic view Mr Courtenay said the private sector has ample funds for investment and that there is stimulation for new industries.

"Every economic indicator tells that the economy is going to see signs of rapid growth" he said.

Minister Courtenay charged that Mr Thompson's rebuttal of the budget was an attempt at electioneering as this was an election year.

Mr Phillip Goldson, Opposition member for the Albert Division was also critical of the budget. He said the cardinal problem facing any government with the shortage of funds which the Belize Government is experiencing is that it cannot sustain the demands of an independent nation. He advised Government to look well at the future of the sugar market and called for more investment in tourism.

Minister of Education and Economic Development, Mr Said Musa, said that while the Opposition had charged that there was a need for a new economic policy they had given no ideas as to what it should be. He said there was not one shred of new thinking by the Opposition after making a great deal of noise about public debt and criticisms of Government's fiscal policy.

"The budget" he said "is a sober budget."

During the debate ministers of government reviewed the work of their ministries and outlined plans for the fiscal year April 1-March 31.

Thompson Rebuttal--Part I

Belize City THE BEACON in English 31 Mar 84 pp 5, 8

[Apparent text of speech to House of Representatives by Curl Thompson:
"Opposition Leader's Rebuttal of Budget Speech," part I; date not given]

[Text]

Mr. Speaker:

Before I come to deal with how the budgetary proposals and the financial estimates for the current fiscal as in the years before have been totally out of step with the socio-economic realities facing the people and the country, I wish to deal with the overall economic situation as it faces us today. As revealed in the Speech and the proposed estimates presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance, the most striking feature of our economy is its pronounced stagnation and hence the inability of the economy to generate any new revenue to the government to breakthrough the stagnation as well as its inability to create any new employment for our people to earn the income to live their lives. This stagnation cripples the government so much that it is indifferent and unresponsive to the needs of the people, even its own employees. The government employees, have been hopeful of receiving the long overdue salary increases;

at the latest in this budget but have been disappointed.

The outstanding characteristic of government's operations in public finance from 1979 to date has been widening deficits and increased borrowing of money by the issue of treasury bills and by advances from the banking system to finance the deficits. From a level of \$1.6 million deficit in fiscal 1979-80, the deficit more than doubled to \$3.9 million in fiscal 1979/80. In fiscal 1980/81, the deficit was \$3.5 million and in fiscal 1981/82, the deficit was a staggering \$8.9 million. According to provisional estimates, the deficit for fiscal 1982/83 is of the same magnitude as 1981/82. According to the budget speech, the estimated (revised) deficit for fiscal 1983/84 is a high \$11.3 million.

We thus see that the approved estimates of revenue and expenditure for each year with a surplus have been exercises in futility. These estimates have been widely off the mark of actual financial operations for the respective years.

The government has relied on indirect taxation i.e. customs and excise duties on imported goods for more than 40% of the recurrent revenue. In 1981/82, of the \$82.4 million recurrent revenue, \$34.6 million came from import duties. Hence, government's policy of encouraging imports. And, in the budget speech, the Hon. Minister of Finance laments that the first main reason for the shortfall is recurrent revenue is "significant reduction in projected revenue due mainly to the decline in the volume of taxable imports." It is clear that the government's policy of encouraging imports is tied heavily to raising revenue for its recurrent expenditure. This fiscal structure which is basically import-oriented is not only regressive but also operates against import-substitution, which is the obvious first stage for economic development of the country. It is incapable of generating any form of economic development and that is the principal reason for our economic stagnation and non-development.

The government relies on direct taxation i.e. income tax to raise only about 12% of the recurrent revenue. A substantial volume of business income and earned income in the higher reaches are not caught in the tax net. Those super income receivers, evading taxes for reasons of their wealth. The present income tax structure is inequitable in that the incidents of taxes do not fall proportionately more on the broad shoulders i.e. those who are able to pay.

A substantial portion of the income taxes are paid in by the salaried class through the PAYE deductions on the salaries. The Hon. Minister of Finance states "reduction in tax revenue resulting from a slow down in the volume of business activities." This is not entirely correct. There has been no marked reduction or slow down in the volume of business. There appears to be tax evasion, both in regard to direct and indirect taxation, on a substantial scale.

Recurrent revenue will be increased not by buying and selling but by new and increased productive activities and by new enterprises within the country. There could be a tax on the produced turnover of the goods at the source of production. In short, what is really needed is a new economic policy which aims at economic development, not only to raise revenue but also to breakthrough the cumulative stagnation that has entrapped the economy.

Because of the inherently regressive fiscal policy for the raising of revenue, the government has been borrowing enormous amounts from the banking system and has created a public debt of enormous and increasing volumes. The government has been borrowing by the issue of treasury bills and by direct advances from the Central Bank and loans from the commercial banks.

From the time of independence in September 1981, government borrowing have simply been shameless or wasteful, so much so that the government has been surviving on bank loans. Treasury bills issued at monthly intervals of 91 days maturity have usually been subscribed to by the Central Bank and commercial banks. Treasury bill borrowings have been at an average interest rate of 12%. Because of increasing volumes of borrowings, this year's debt servicing i.e. payment of interest and amortization, according to the Budget Speech is \$13,490,955. This is 14.74% of the recurrent revenue for fiscal 1983/84. Thus, the financial mismanagement arising from living by borrowing takes 15% of the available annual income. This leaves nothing for development. The government, by its past policies have brought about this situation, a situation in which our future is mortgaged and our children's future is sold.

I will set down the debt structure that has been brought about by government borrowing. Firstly, by way of treasury bills:

The amounts outstanding by way of treasury bills at the end of each year from 1979 are as follows:

1979 - \$ 7.7 million

1980 - \$15.0 million

1981 - \$16.9 million
 1982 - \$19.0 million
 Sept. 1983 - \$30.4 million

These figures are from the Central Bank of Belize, Quarterly Review, September 1978, Table II.

The treasury bills have been taken up by the Central Bank and the Commercial Banks in amounts as follows:

	Central Bank	Commercial Banks
1979	\$ 7.1 million	\$ 7.7 million
1980	\$ 7.4 million	\$ 7.3 million
1981	\$14.4 million	\$ 2.3 million
1982	\$17.0 million	\$ 1.8 million
Sept. 1983	\$ 7.1 million	\$23.0 million

Along with the treasury bill borrowings, the government's other borrowings by way of advances from the Central Bank and Commercial Banks have been in ever-increasing amounts, and are:

	Central Bank Direct Advances Net	Commercial Banks Direct Advances Net	Other Securities	Total
1978	\$ 0.6 M	\$ 5.1 M	\$ 1.9 M	7.5 M
1979	\$ 3.0 M	\$ 8.7 M	\$ 1.7 M	13.3 M
1980	\$ 2.3 M	\$ 9.7 M	\$ 1.7 M	12.6 M
1981	\$ 7.2 M	\$12.7 M	\$ 1.7 M	21.8 M
1982	\$10.1 M	\$23.5 M	\$ 3.1 M	36.9 M
Sept. 1983	\$14.8 M	\$21.4 M	\$ 3.8 M	39.1 M

These figures are from the same Quarterly Report of the Central Bank of Belize, September 1983.

I will now place before you, Mr. Speaker, the grand total of government's borrowings and the enormity of the debt economy created by the government:

1978 - \$18.6 Million
 1979 - \$21.0 Million
 1980 - \$27.5 Million
 1981 - \$38.5 Million
 1982 - \$55.9 Million
 1983 - \$70.8 Million

This nation today is in debt to a sum of \$71 million. This is the debt within the country. The foreign debt is over \$60 million. When the accumulated domestic debt is \$71 million, as against an annual recurrent revenue of about \$75 million, it is no exaggeration to say that the nation stands mortgaged. In a very real sense we have lost our independence to manage our own affairs. With our \$60 million foreign debt, we are without doubt a slave nation. All these have happened within three years of independence.

BARROW, ERLINGTON WIN UDP NOMINATION IN COLLET

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 1 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

RIDING the crest of a heavy grass roots poll involving almost a thousand Collet voters this week, Mr. Dean Barrow received an overwhelming endorsement as the UDP Canaidate for the Collet Division at a primary held at the S.G. Lodge hall in Belize City.

Mr. Hubert Elrlington was chosen as the alternate candidate.

The primary, originally intended as a three-way poll, narrowed to a two-way contest after Councillor Derek Aikman withdrew.

Collet Electoral Division, with more than 4,000 registered voters, is among the largest in the country. It is widely expected that Collet

is one of three Divisions ear-marked for boundary revision later this year. Under the constitution those electoral divisions which have more than 2,500 voters must have their boundaries re-drawn. The other divisions which qualify for re-definition are Freetown and Albeft.

Confidential sources say government has a plan to re-draw all six political divisions in Belize City to expand the Fort George, Pickstock and Mesopotamia, the three smallest, to try to gain maximum advantage out of the system. There are also secret plans afoot to re-draw the boundaries for Corozal Orange Walk and Cayo divisions.

CSO: 3298/725

EVAN HYDE ADDRESSES UDP CONVENTION, ATTACKS PUP

Belize City THE BEACON in English 31 Mar 84 pp 3, 10

[Apparent text of speech to a UDP convention, "Evan 'X' Hyde's Convention Address"; date and place not given]

[Text]

IT is not my habit to write out speeches, but then this occasion is very important, very serious, and my role as guest speaker must reflect the importance and gravity of the situation.

The United Democratic Party, *de facto* constitutional opposition of Belize, is preparing for general elections, general elections which most Belizeans hope will show us that the democratic process can work, can achieve the changing of an unpopular government.

You and I know that the People's United Party barely won re-election in the last general elections, 1979 to be exact, and that they won through the use of false pretences. They told lies and made promises they had no intention of keeping, because they felt that power,

however achieved, was its own justification.

Having massively betrayed their trust with the signing of the treacherous Heads of Agreement in March of 1981, the minority PUP government, and we say minority because very visible and conceivable indication is that the majority of the adult, reasoning, and honestly eligible citizens of this young nation do not support the programmes and personalities of the PUP administration, this minority government was risen up against and about to be overthrown by the righteously outraged people of Belize.

In conspiracy with foreign enemies of the Belizean people, this PUP government responded by beating up the people in the streets; when that did not work, they began

to shoot down the people, and finally in an utter panic they would now like to forget, the PUP leaders begged the colonial governor to declare martial law to save their corrupted and murderous skins from justice at the hands of the people uprising.

So now we are here in 1984 and the PUP must render an account of their stewardship. We know that their stewardship has been an evil and dishonest one, but evil and dishonest governments are in place all over the world. Evil men are always self-deceiving: they tell themselves they are doing good, and surround themselves with those who agree with their minority opinion. Meanwhile, the people perish. Because evil men do not ever admit their evil, let us

for once in our lives refrain from dreaming that Goliath will fall down of his own volition and weight. Let us face up to the challenge: Goliath must be slingshotted down, and this must be done by you and me, us, the people. Reagan is not going to do it for us; Thatcher is not going to do it for us; Esquivel is not going to do it for us. Only the people can save the people.

So this is what conventions are about. This party convention is about people of the good party, the honest party coming together to begin the campaign to remove the evil party from office. We must shoulder our responsibilities. We must build emotional intensity. Democracy is so precious that men and women from time immemorial have fought and died for it. Today, while we converse, men and women are rotting

in jail for freedom; they are being tortured for freedom, and they are making the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

Our country is small and it is blessed. All we Belizeans have to do, the majority of us, is sacrifice, and work, and vote for freedom. Most of us are not required, like Brown, Humes, Flowers, and Locke, in 1974 to be shot for freedom. Most of us are not required, like Sylvino Riveroll in 1981, to be shotgunned to death for freedom. Most of us are not required, like Basilio Ah in 1983 and Cyril Davis in 1984 to go to jail for freedom.

No, all most of us have to do is sacrifice, work, and vote for freedom. And this is what the UDP's convention tonight is about. It is about unifying us, motivating us, and mobilizing us. This convention tonight is about the creation of sol-

idarity, and from out of that solidarity will be born all those heroes and heroines who will sparkle at different times in the bitter campaign we are about to endure.

The people are good, the people are wise, and the people are brave. Tonight the people meet to choose a good candidate, a wise candidate, and a brave candidate.

This is the process of democracy at work, and nobody works it better than the United Democratic Party, a party of honesty, humility, patience and perseverance.

No party is perfect. But whereas the PUP is evil, and revels in its evil, the UDP suffers for trying to be good.

As it is written in the Bible: in the beginning evil Cain slew good Abel, but eventually David slingshotted down Goliath. Those with ears to hear, let them hear. *Thank you.*

BELIZE CITY COUNCIL UNVEILS PROPOSED 1984-85 BUDGET

Goldson Slap at Price

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 1 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

The Belize City Council this week unveiled its 1984/85 budget proposals which aim at collecting \$2,945,910 during the current fiscal year. Councillor Philip Goldson, Commissioner of Finance, outlining the budget said the Council had to work harder to collect arrears of business and property taxes. The Council estimates that there is an outstanding amount of \$2 million worth of City council taxes which have yet to be collected. Councillor Goldson also censured the Prime Minister Mr. Price for what he described as Mr. Price's "lack of courtesy" as Minister of Finance in refusing to meet with a delegation of Councillors who had asked to see him. The Councillors want to discuss a plan for rationalizing the amount of subvention which the Central Government pays annually to the City Council.

The Council has a plan, Mr. Goldson said, to base the annual subvention on a population ratio. At present the Council receives an average of \$10.00 per year per person. The Council wants an agreement which would enable it to draw the equivalent of \$20.00 per person from Central Government funds - a plan that would give the Council an extra \$440,000 to work with.

Additional Goldson Remarks

Belize City AMANDALA in English 30 Mar 84 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Tues. March 27
The Belize City Council tonight passed its 1984-85 budget at \$2,945,910 for the new financial year starting April 1, 1984 and ending March 31, 1985. The budget was balanced despite refusal of Finance Minister George Price to grant even one cent increase on the annual government subvention. During the debate on the city's budget, Mr. Goldson pointed out that the previous PUP administration had left behind uncollected arrears of taxes amounting

to nearly two million dollars. He appealed to tax-payers of Belize City to pay for the services carried out in the city.

Mr. Goldson said that the people were pleased with the Garbage Watch program being carried out by Commissioner of Sanitation Derek Aikman and the street main-

tenance program being carried out by Commissioner of Works Hubert Elrington. He said that the department of finance would continue to give top priority to those two projects in the use of available funds of the Council.

Mayor Gustavo Bautista chaired the meeting.

CSO: 3298/725

BRIEFS

NEW BDF COMMANDER--Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Mr George Price was inspecting officer at a military parade last week at Price Barracks to mark the handing over of the command of the Belize Defence Force. The new commander of the BDF is Lieutenant Colonel Starmer Smith. He replaces Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Galloway who is returning home to the United Kingdom after 2 years of attachment to the BDF. During the parade the BDF Standard was given by the outgoing commander to the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence who in turn delivered it to Lieutenant Colonel Smith signifying the change in command. At the handing-over ceremony, Captain Alan Usher of the BDF Airwing, who recently returned from pilot training in Canada, was the Parade Commander. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 1 Apr 84 p 5]

COUNCARID MEMBERSHIP--The National Development Foundation of Belize (NDFB) has announced plans to join the Council of Caribbean Institutions for Development (COUNCARID). The NDFB's Managing Director, Mr Manuel Cuellar was elected Vice President of the Board of Directors of COUNCARID at its second meeting held in St Lucia earlier this year. Mr Cuellar says the NDFB is in the process of organising a local umbrella organization to strengthen COUNCARID. He says all private voluntary organizations in Belize will be invited to join. The NDFB is a founding member of the Council of Caribbean Institutions for Development. [Excerpt] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 1 Apr 84 p 7]

BLOW TO UNION--Leaders of the Christian Workers Union suffered a reversal this week when a ruling by the Chief Justice confirmed the powers of an Arbitration Tribunal to decide who should select the work gangs on the waterfront. CWU officials hold that the Union and only the Union has the right to determine which workers should make up the team and sought a court injunction to prevent an Arbitration Tribunal now in session from interfering or in any way abridging this "right" by the CWU. The court ruling acknowledges that the Union does not have any absolute right to determine who gets the waterfront jobs and who does not. The Belize Waterfront Employers Association, representatives of the shipping lines, are reported to be happy with the court ruling. The Association feels that the employers who pay out good money to waterfront workers deserve to have some say over who goes to work for them. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 1 Apr 84 p 1]

NEW TV BOARD--Belize City, Tues. March 27 Minister of Broadcasting Louis Sylvestre this week named a 7 member Television Board to monitor and set guidelines for television transmission in Belize. The members are Alfred Alford, Marian Marsden, Mark Cuellar, Nestor Vasquez, Godwin Buckley, Rodolfo Silva, and the Ministry's Permanent Secretary Wally Brown. Five of the six non-public service members of the new board are card carrying PUP members. These are Alford, Marsden, Cuellar, Buckley (Cayo), and Silva (Corozal). Alford, known as The Silent Feeder, is a former BELIZE TIMES employee (under Tony Meighan) who was sent to do mass communications in Jamaica. Along with Ray Lightburn, he now produces THE BELIZE TRIBUNE and manages Media & Marketing, a most intriguing company. [Text]
[Belize City AMANDALA in English 30 Mar 84 p 9]

YPF ELECTION--Belize City, Mon. March 26 The Youth Popular Front, a political arm of the United Democratic Party, held its annual general meeting and election of officers tonight. Re-elected as chairman was Deputy Belize City Mayor Rodwell Pinks and as Deputy Chairman Cleophus Lord. President is Mr. Hillman Haylock; the new secretary is Teresa Williamson and her assistant will be Maureen Smith. Treasurer is Percival Murillo and while Mr. Arthur Banner is Assistant Treasurer. The new councillors are Karen Dawson, Anthony Tucker, Carlton Pinks, Mark Virgo and Rene Young. Guest speaker for the occasion was City Councillor Mr. Hubert Elrington. He told those present that the PUP was something of the past; the PUP is entirely out of step in this age of technology. The United Democratic Party, on the other hand, is the party for the present age and time. We must move forward and that is why we must have the United Democratic Party to be the new government of the day. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 30 Mar 84 p 6]

UDP RURAL CANDIDATE--On Sunday, another big United Democratic Party Convention was held in Haskall Village, in the Belize Rural District. Belize City Councillor Sam Rhaburn, an Accountant and former Police Officer, was selected to represent the UDP in the Belize Rural (North) constituency for general elections slated for November this year. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 31 Mar 84 p 2]

PILOTS ASSOCIATION--The formation has been announced of the Belize Aviation Association, organized under the Trade Union Ordinance, which will initially be open for membership to all pilots and student pilots residing in Belize. It is hoped to later expand to include all aviation personnel, including Air Traffic Controllers etc. As its principal objective, the Association aims to promote, advance and protect the interests of all persons involved in aviation in Belize by securing complete organization of its members, thereby providing a forum for discussion of matters concerning the industry. The Association will also act as bargaining agent and represent its members in trade dispute. At a recent meeting at the Association's office at the Municipal Airport, the following pilots were elected to service as the first executive: Tom Murphy (Chairman), Authur Hoy (Vice-Chairman), Eddie Garbutt, John Grief Jrand, Charlie Usher (Counselors). Pilots wishing to join the Association should contact any of the officers or the Sec. Beth La Croix, at 2a King Street in Belize City. [Text]
[Belize City DISWEEK in English 30 Mar 84 p 9]

SENATE APPROVES GOVERNMENT'S \$186 MILLION BUDGET

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 27 Mar 84 p 1

[Text]

The Senate yesterday approved the \$186 million Government budget for the year 1984-85.

The Appropriation Act 1984, outlining Government revenues and expenditures, will now go to Governor, Viscount Dunrossil, for his assent so the bill can become law before the end of the Government fiscal year on March 31.

The budget calls for an expenditure of \$169 million by Government over the next year. Government will raise an estimated \$186 million through customs duties, taxes, levies and other fees.

The Senate passed the Appropriations Bill at 12.30 p.m. after nearly two weeks debate — despite the fact

that Senators have no veto power over a money bill such as the budget.

The budget was not passed by the Senate yesterday before Senate President the Hon. Hugh Richardson launched a blistering attack on Government's lack of progress in providing proper community development programmes *please see debate report on Page 4.*

He said that Government had failed miserably in providing community development opportunity for youths in the various parishes. "I would like to hear some answers."

The budget was first debated for the 37½ hours set aside by the House of Assembly.

By far the most con-

troversial issue was the \$8 million Heritage Fund investment which will mature in the year 2012 at \$200 million.

The fund was set up on instructions from the Hon. David Gibbons, Minister of Finance. He was promptly attacked by Opposition leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans who said the fund was his "last will and testament" before retiring the post he has held for the past nine years.

Mr. Gibbons left the Island after the House budget debate without announcing any intention to resign. Premier the Hon. John Swan said on television that he had not been informed of any such move.

CSO: 3298/727

UBP ENDS CANDIDATES' RIGHT TO PRIMARY, ANGERING SOME MP'S

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Mar 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] The United Bermuda Party has abolished the right of a potential election candidate to force a primary.

It is a move that probably means the end of primaries, which have caused splits and ill-feeling in the party in the past.

But some MPs and party members are angry that power is being taken from party branches and given to a central committee, on which branch representatives will be in the minority.

They fear that those in authority will stack the committee with their own supporters and so ensure that only the candidates they want will be selected.

Under the old system, branch committees of the UBP would adopt two people to represent the party in an election. Any member who failed to be adopted could demand that a primary election be held, in which party members in the constituency voted to decide who should represent the UBP at an election.

Now a person who fails to be adopted has to apply to a Candidates Appeal Committee, which is made up of the party chairman, the campaign committee chairman, five branch chairmen, five members of the Parliamentary group, and five committee members from the branch involved.

The appeal committee then decides who should be adopted. If the person still wishes to be a candidate he can ask that a primary be held--but the decision is made by the appeal committee. And it seems unlikely that the committee would give the go-ahead for a primary after the branch and the committee has told a person he is not wanted.

Many in the UBP have wanted primaries abolished since the bitterness and infighting of three primaries held in the run-up to the 1980 general election. Some felt the apparent split in the party cost them votes.

The party went to great pains to ensure there were no primaries before the 1983 election.

The change in the UBP's constitution was approved on Wednesday night. It comes at a time when speculation is rife that there could be one, or even two by-elections later this year.

The Hon. David Gibbons, Minister of Finance, is believed to be toying with the idea of stepping down from politics, which would cause a by-election in Pembroke West. And the Hon. Ernest Vesey, Minister of Legislative Affairs, may give up his seat in Smith's North.

Mr. William Cox, MP for Devonshire South, has more first-hand experience of primaries than any other Parliamentarian. In three titanic struggles with Mr. Colin Benbow to see who would stand in the safe UBP seat he has won twice and lost once. And he is a staunch supporter of primaries.

"I deplore the change in the constitution," he said last night.

"The harm that people claim primaries have caused has in fact been caused by the way people have behaved, and not by the primaries themselves.

"The idea that this country can be run by a few people making decisions behind closed doors is most undemocratic and un-Bermudian. The expressed intent of this Government is to have open and participatory democracy, and I can't think of any better way than primaries."

Another opponent of the change was Mr. David Wilkinson, who unsuccessfully proposed an amendment which would have meant that if a potential candidate could gather the support of at least 10 percent of the paid-up UBP members in a constituency, he could force a primary.

"I take the view that the UBP members should be allowed to say who they want to represent them," he said.

Mr. Ralph Marshall said he was concerned about power passing from the "grass roots" to a central committee.

"This change will mean other people thrusting their will on branch members," he said.

The Premier, the Hon. John Swan, has supported the change, which he believes will have the backing of the majority of UBP members.

"There has been a broad discussion for many months about this issue and the party has now reached a consensus," he said.

CSO: 3298/727

UNION IN CONFRONTATION WITH EMPLOYERS, GOVERNMENT

Construction Workers Strike

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Mar 84 p 2

[Text]

Striking construction workers are willing to remain out on strike until employers modify their two-year wage package offer.

That was the word from the unionised workers *The Royal Gazette* spoke to yesterday as the builders continued their picket lines at 15 construction sites.

The strike by the 500 unionised workers is entering its fourth day. It was called when talks between the Bermuda Industrial Union and employers for a new two-year wage pact broke down after months of negotiations.

"We will strike for as long as it takes," said one worker. "But emphasise that none of us can afford to go on strike."

Another picket — all declined to give their names — said that construction workers were not making a fair wage.

"We're not making enough when you consider the cost of living and the responsibilities that we have to meet," another said.

"We're just making enough to cover the basics like food and rent."

Unionised construction workers currently earn between \$8.06 to \$11 an hour. Employers have offered a 7 percent wage increase in the first year of a new contract followed by a 6 percent wage increase.

The union has declined to reveal its demands, but one picket said yesterday he thought it was between 15 and 16 percent over the two-year period.

"It's not only wage differences. We're also concerned with benefits," said a picket.

"We're sure of what we want — but we have a spokesman for that. We'll be satisfied with whatever the union deems as fair."

Threat to Unionism

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 9 Mar 84 pp 2, 6

[Article by D. E. Lightbourn]

[Text]

In the course of this year, 1984, our Union, the Bermuda Industrial Union, will face the

most serious challenge to its existence that it has faced, since the late 50's.

Actions taken by the businessmen's government have indicated the way the wind is blowing and it does not bode well for trade unionism in Bermuda.

During the year 1983, we have been able to observe what has been happening to trade unions in the United States and Great Britain, and in many European industrialised countries. We have seen, with concern, a steadily mounting attack on workers rights in those countries.

In most instances those attacks have followed on the heels of elections which have put right-wing, conservative parties into power. (For, contrary to what we have been led to believe, governments in the so-called "democratic" countries are no longer elected by democratic processes, but by those who control the wealth).

In years past, many workers fought, and some died, to achieve the conditions and wages which a new generation of workers have taken for granted.

They (the new generation) have become complacent and, ironically, because of the better living standards which trade unionism achieved for them, many seem to think they no longer need trade unions.

Naturally, the large transnational and multinational companies, controlled by the big money boys, and that have grown powerful through the efforts of the workers, have been only too ready to encourage this attitude. The big money boys realised several years ago that the threat to their control of the world's wealth did not come from the Russian or the Chinese. This is demonstrated by the fact that they are prepared to trade with any Communist country — if the price is right!

No, they recognised that the greatest threat to their domination was from international trade unionism. And they set out to destroy that power.

EROSION OF RIGHTS

Unfortunately, in too many cases, in the western world, they have been only too successful. So successful, in fact, that trade unionism in the western industrialised countries is fighting for its very survival.

Some may argue this is not so. They may point to the large trade union organisations, both national and international, which appear to be strong and healthy.

But the operative word there is **APPEAR**. For if one looks below the surface, one may observe the increasing erosion of workers' rights and protection. A steadily increasing pressure on trade unions, large and small, is all too often finding the weak links in those institutions — and a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

As long as the workers stood united and were constantly aware that the fight for their rights

is a never-ending one, the big money men were forced to go along and to make concessions, and to grant some of those rights.

Today, in many western industrialised countries, that unity has been undermined. Workers who have enjoyed the good life that their predecessors fought for, are being cozened by the powerful money men into believing that they are now the "privileged" people. That they can negotiate their own contracts, on an individual basis, without the intervention of any trade union.

Thus, the good life, for which trade unions fought in years past, is now being used as a weapon against the workers and their trade unions.

However, the smug, complacent worker of today has forgotten one of life's most important truths. That is, that those who hold the economic power have never GIVEN anything to the workers. Those who enjoy the good life today have forgotten that what has been given (under pressure) can be taken back (under pressure). We are seeing this happen today, in both the United States and the United Kingdom.

If we do not wake up now, by the end of this year, we will find ourselves divided and weakened. And then the big boys will be free to strike at the trade unions, with anti-labour laws and increasingly harsh "agreements", which will take back all those things we fought so hard to get.

NEW FIGHTERS

As things stand now, I see a gradual decline of effective trade unionism in the rich, industrialised countries. The workers in those countries have been brainwashed into believing that they are still free and still have rights — until they try to take positive action in demanding those rights. Only then will the workers discover that those rights do not exist any more, not even on paper.

The only hope for the survival of trade unionism is the growth of unions in the Third World and developing countries, which constitute two thirds of the world's labour force.

Those workers are in a similar position to that occupied by the workers in the industrialised countries about 40 or 50 years ago. And those workers today have a long way to go to achieve the standard of living enjoyed by their sisters and brothers in the Western world.

These exploited workers of the developing and Third World countries are the trade unionists of the future. These are the workers who have just started to fight for their rights.

So, as the flame of trade unionism flickers and weakens in the Western world, the workers in the rest of the world will take up the torch.

For Trade Unionism **MUST NOT** die. It is the **ONLY** weapon against the extremes of Communism and Fascism which are seeking to dominate the world today.

BIU Attack on Employers

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 27 Mar 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Bermuda Industrial Union has called a mass meeting for tomorrow night because of concern at what president Ottiwell Simmons labelled "a broadside attack by employers on the union."

Mr. Simmons said last night that Government was apparently supporting employers in a campaign against the union, particularly considering its recent "slandorous" statements regarding the BIU Credit Union and pension plan.

Tomorrow's meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. at Devonshire Rec.

The union leader said it was a general gathering but added that he was keen for all members of the BIU's Cooperative Supermarket attend.

"It is a general membership meeting so everyone can be informed of all the negotiations that are taking place at present and can hear what the facts are about the Credit Union and also be acquainted with the Cooperative Supermarket because there is no telling what comes next," Mr. Simmons said.

"It is my firm belief that the establishment is out to discredit the Bermuda Industrial Union and all its economic activities and that might include next the Cooperative Supermarket which is a success and a good example of workers having efficient control over their own economic enterprise," the union chief explained.

He said he was concerned at an apparent change of approach by employers in current negotiations, several of which he said had reached a deadlock when in the past progress would have been made.

"It may be a move on the part of many employers that feel they must contain the union and not give workers their just dues.

"Too many negotiations are hitting deadlock at the moment and we also have Government making slanderous remarks about the union and the credit union," he said.

Talks yesterday on the construction workers' dispute failed to reach a breakthrough.

A statement from the employers said the union's position remained "inflexible."

It said the union had started out by demanding a 25 percent increase for the first year, changing to a demand now for 16 percent in the first year and 15 in the second.

"The employers have once again asked the union to modify their requests.

"Should they be prepared to lower their position, negotiations could then resume.

"Although it is apparent that an impasse has been reached and the construction employers have suggested mediation, the union have indicated they have no desire for it," the employers reported.

Last night Mr. Simmons refuted that the union was being inflexible.

"That is just not true," he said. "They have known all along that we have been prepared to negotiate on those figures for the first and second years. In fact, all the items are negotiable.

"But it does seem that employers have a different approach to negotiations than in the past and we are getting the feeling that more employers are involved in this behaviour than just the construction side."

He said talks were still going on with garage employers — workers at Bermuda's four main garages staged a one-day stoppage on Thursday — and with Bermuda Broadcasting Company management.

There were also negotiations with the Bermuda Telephone Company where employees' contracts expire on Saturday night.

Discussions were taking place on contracts for airport porters (known as Redcaps).

"A lot of things seemed to have got into sticky, muddy areas, whereas beforehand we normally got things sorted out a lot more smoothly," the BIU chief said.

"The purpose of Wednesday's mass meeting is to examine and discuss these developments and to make some judgments."

Meanwhile, picketing will continue at the Island's construction sites while another meeting between employers and union is arranged.

"We are ready to meet at any time," Mr. Simmons said.

Swan on Labor Disputes

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 28 Mar 84 p 1

[Text]

Premier, the Hon. John Swan warned yesterday that conflict between employers and various divisions of the Bermuda Industrial Union could lead to a repeat of the "crippling disruptions" of 1981.

In a statement issued last night Mr. Swan expressed his grave concern at unfolding events involving construction workers and employees and said that nobody emerged as winner from any industrial dispute.

"All Bermudian families will recall the considerable hardships and inconveniences of 1981.

"It would be tragic if our 375th Year celebrations were to be marred by industrial action bringing with it disharmony, when there should be unity.

"With our tourism season about to begin, and our hopes that we can take advantage of the recovery in the United States economy, we all have expectations of a very successful season ahead. It is therefore vital that we resolve our difficulties without further disruption."

The Hon. Sir John Sharpe, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, said yesterday that he would be writing to the Bermuda Employers' Council and the Bermuda Industrial Union expressing his concern at the "apparently dead-locked" negotiations and offering the services of the labour relations officer to assist in resolving the "impasse".

Meanwhile the Bermuda's Employers' Council has responded to allegations made in yesterday's *Royal Gazette* by BIU president Ottiwell Simmons MP.

BEC executive director Lynn Osborne denied that employers had launched a broadside attack against the BIU or that Government was encouraging a campaign against the union.

She said that the BEC had not tried to discredit the BIU or any of its economic activities and that employers had not changed their approach in the current negotiations.

She also noted that only BIU negotiations appeared to be running into difficulties and that agreements with other unions had been reached at "realistic wage levels." She denied there had been a conspiracy against the BIU.

"The BIU initiated industrial action and not the employers. We stress that the BIU negotiators are intransigent as evidenced by their reluctance to accept mediation and their demands for a 16 percent wage increase.

"The BIU seems to be confusing their secondary functions, ie the Co-op Supermarket and the Credit Union with their responsibility to negotiate in good faith," she said.

And in another BEC statement issued yesterday, negotiator Donald Hunt expressed amazement at Mr. Simmons claim that "all items are negotiable" in the construction talks.

"If this is true, the employers would welcome the BIU confirming this by making a long overdue move to lower their demands and alter their position.

"So far the union's negotiating stance has been non-compromising and one of 'give me'."

BIU Meeting

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 29 Mar 84 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Fears that last night's meeting of the Bermuda Industrial Union (BIU) would call for a general strike proved unfounded.

On Tuesday Premier, the Hon. John Swan warned that continuing problems between the BIU and various employers could lead to a repeat of the "crippling disruptions" of 1981.

But last night BIU president Mr. Ottiwell Simmons said that although there had been calls for support action for the construction workers' strike, the union "was not encouraged in that area."

Asked if he thought industrial action on the scale of 1981 was nearer or further away as a result of the meeting, Mr. Simmons replied: "I would not like to say whether such action is nearer or further away or that there's a possibility at all."

"I don't know if the Premier was intending to incite anything or if he was just reminiscing. I think that the best line for Government to take would be to urge the parties to reach a settlement rather than remind us of what could happen."

"Our real objective is to get an agreement, and get one amicably."

He called on the construction employers to change their attitudes to negotiations and to make "reasonable" offers to the workers. If this did not happen he said, the union would call another mass meeting to discuss what to do.

The meeting, at the Devonshire Recreation Club, was packed with members.

Mr. Simmons said that those present expressed "absolute solidarity" particularly with the construction workers but also with all groups involved in negotiations with employers.

Among the other items discussed were the union's pension fund, the Credit Union and the Co-operative Supermarket. Mr. Simmons predicted that as a result of the meeting more members would be joining these enterprises, making them even stronger.

Yesterday Mr. Donald Hunt, negotiator for the construction employers responded to earlier statements by Mr. Simmons.

He accused the union leader of clutching at straws: "On Mr. Simmons' point that the public should judge whether 31 percent is reasonable, the construction employers suggest that the public also consider whether it is fair and reasonable to be subjected to a 31 percent plus increase over two years on the cost of building a house as well as maintenance work."

"Thirty-one percent represents only what the BIU is demanding in wages — it does not include all of their other demands, which also represent a cost for the employers and the community."

ABRANTES ASSAILS UNITED STATES AS REVOLUTION'S CHIEF ENEMY

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 27 Mar 84 pp 2-3

[Speech by Div Gen Jose Abrantes, first vice minister of Ministry of Interior and member of Central Committee of the party, at ceremony for 25th anniversary of the State Security Organs held at Teatro Carlos Marx on 26 Mar 84, Year of the 25th Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution: "There Cannot Be Greater Honor for Men, Women in Our Security Department Than to Feel We Are Fidel's Soldiers"]

[Text] Comrade Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of our party,

Comrade Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of our party,

Comrades of the Politburo,

Comrades of the presidency,

Esteemed representatives of the Security Organs of fraternal countries who join us in this ceremony,

Dear families of heroes who died in the line of duty,

Dear soldiers of the Security Organs,

Comrades,

We come to this 25th anniversary of the founding of our united and combative State Security Organs with fervor and renewed optimism.

This significant anniversary constitutes an important moment in the life of our Security Organs. It is also significant for all of us comrades who have been tied to this defense front of our revolution and our fatherland during these years of struggle and victories.

Today, like someone climbing a hill, we stop and look back, review our troops, take this appropriate time for memories and homage and then march forward again with renewed energy.

Many ideas, many feelings, memories and emotions come to mind on a day like this.

In the first place, above all, we believe that our Security Department can come to this anniversary with the inner satisfaction of having been completely faithful--as we are today and always will be--to the honor of being the first revolutionary, socialist and internationalist Security Department to defend the workers and peasants in this hemisphere.

The road taken during these 25 years has not been easy nor could it be. It can be said that we have not had a moment's letup in all this time. The aggressions, threats, hostile plans and actions of every type against Cuba by Yankee imperialism and its agents have never ceased for a single instant. Our enemies have never, for a single moment, abandoned the idea of destroying us. Today we cannot even predict when such a stubborn, criminal and stupid policy will be discarded.

However, our revolution has not been nor can it ever be crushed. Experience teaches us that a united people, aware and prepared, under our current conditions can never be destroyed or conquered.

With blood and sweat, with the patriotic and communist spirit of millions of Cubans, our country has made itself an invincible bastion. That is a historic achievement that belongs to all the people. The determined, firm and constant contribution of our Security Organs which have defended the work of the revolution while creating and consolidating their own work has been part of this.

If modesty tends to make us moderate praise, a sense of justice inspires us to emphasize three essential aspects that we can proclaim on this date with satisfaction and legitimate pride.

The first is that we started on our road with the people we serve, from whom we are born, of whom we are part, who accompanied us in every struggle and every victory throughout these years. We reach this anniversary with even more affection and support and a more indissoluble and effective union with the people and their mass organizations.

The second is that we started our march from the veteran ranks of the Rebel Army. We arrive here closer than ever to our invincible and illustrious FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces].

The third is that we began our life under the guidance of comrades Fidel and Raul. Today, at the end of 25 years, we have the great emotion of celebrating this anniversary with Fidel and Raul.

These three aspects have enormous value for us. They are a symbol of our route, of our life, of the objectives that have given and will continue giving meaning to our existence as an institution of the Ministry of Interior. We are very aware of what Marti stated: "He who has served long is obliged to continue serving." We also recall another idea of the Master: "The fatherland is sacred and those who love it, disinterestedly and tirelessly, owe it the whole truth."

Faithful to these concepts, we soldiers of the Security Department can say on this occasion that there is no greater objective in our lives than to continue serving our fatherland, our revolution, our party and our commander in chief unflinching and with our hearts filled with truth.

When we look at the lessons that this first quarter of a century offers us, we immediately see that a people in revolution have the nerve and strength to do feats that, under other circumstances, they could never have tried.

How else to explain how we in the Security Department were able to accept the challenge of an enemy like Yankee imperialism that had unquestionable superiority in material resources and vast experience in subversion, espionage and destabilization of progressive governments while the triumphant revolution almost completely lacked experience and equipment in this field?

How else to explain how we have been able to confront, repel and defeat the CIA, its sophisticated procedures and its terrorist plans? How else to explain this history of 25 years, filled with anonymous heroes, filled with sacrifice and self-denial, which has been written by the humble men and women of our people?

The answer to these questions is something that the imperialists and their servants have never been able to understand and never will. It is the strength of morality. It is the strength of principles. It is the strength of intelligence and awareness. It is the strength that rises from a just and revolutionary cause. It is the strength of the people. It is the strength that our enemies and the system of exploitation and injustice that they represent can never have on their side!

Starting practically from zero because nothing in this field that existed in this country before could serve the objectives and nature of the revolution, our Security Organs have fought all their battles with that strength.

Recalling those struggles and those sacrifices today, our first thought is of the comrades who are not with us today because they gave their lives in the line of duty: those who died fighting on our land and those who died heroically fighting far from the fatherland, defending the same ideals and fighting the same enemies. Let us give them our most heartfelt homage, our gratitude and our undying affection.

Let us especially remember a man who was the most outstanding and extraordinary founder of our Security Department, a man who knew how to forge a communist model with his exemplary tenacity, the exceptional person who has dominated this 25th anniversary: the heroic and unforgettable Captain San Luis.

They cannot be with us physically on this anniversary but they are with us in our hearts and they will always be with us in our struggles and our victories.

We want to give special recognition to our unselfish Counterintelligence soldiers. This organ had to begin the struggle against the enemies of the revolution very early. We cannot forget those early times when the Yankee

imperialists and the CIA fomented the creation of counterrevolutionary organizations, abetted the first uprisings in different parts of the country and hatched the first plans for sabotage, infiltration and attacks on the leaders of the revolution. At that time--practically the beginning of 1959--the members of this organ took their first steps in the midst of great difficulties. They have had to fight an unending battle that continues today. It subjects our Counterintelligence soldiers to a state of constant vigilance and tension, ready to resolutely repel enemy plans and actions.

The effort of our Counterintelligence men and women, the anonymous heroism of many of its soldiers, was a major contribution so that our people could be victorious in the acute class struggle which began in the initial years of the revolution. The internal reactionaries were defeated. Above all, the gigantic machine organized by the CIA to develop subversion and terror in our country was defeated. The enemy organizations and conspiracies were penetrated, dismantled and destroyed after a long struggle. The counterrevolutionary bands were located and wiped out in a difficult and tenacious battle that lasted several years. Hundreds of comrades, workers, militiamen and soldiers of our FAR and Security Department lost their lives in this battle. When the imperialists landed at the Bay of Pigs, our Counterintelligence soldiers and our CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] people blocked every mobilization of the internal fifth column with a firm hand. They have fought a tenacious and silent battle against enemy infiltrations, espionage, sabotage plans, attempts at ideological penetration and deviation and all the other actions that the intelligence organs of Yankee imperialism and its allies attempt against the integrity and security of our fatherland with equal success.

We could not even attempt a brief summary of all the services that the effective and experienced Counterintelligence soldiers have provided the revolution and our people. Let us say only that they have known how to play a major role in the shining pages of history with their intelligence, boldness and courage. Let us also express our conviction that the enemy can never surprise them, never find their vigilant guard weakened. The sacred mission entrusted to them to defend our territory and our interests will always be fulfilled with maximum discretion, firmness and efficiency.

We must also emphasize the unselfish, discreet and meritorious work of the intrepid soldiers who have devoted their energy to intelligence missions throughout these years. With wisdom, patience and frequently at great risk, they have made an outstanding contribution to the discovery and neutralization of enemy plans in spite of the complex and difficult conditions of their work. To all of them we send the recognition and emotional greetings of our people on this 25th anniversary.

The achievements accumulated throughout these years by our Personal Security soldiers who protect the physical integrity of the leaders of the revolution are also significant. This can only be fully measured by the fact that no other revolutionary leader of our time has been the target of so many sophisticated planned attacks on his life as comrade Fidel.

It would be difficult to find a similar example in the history of this century. This demonstrates, among other things, the extent of the immorality and mockery

of the most basic standards of civilized coexistence by the CIA and various U.S. administrations. The Personal Security work during these 25 years can be expressed by the fact that not one of these plans has been carried out. Not one of our leaders, despite their constant mobility and contact with the people, has been the victim of these criminal machinations. This is basic but it is not the only thing we must recognize the courageous members of this organ for. They also have a valuable role in the organization and support of important activities of the revolution. They not only offer our leaders protection but also their invaluable aid and their respectful and fraternal support in different tasks.

On this occasion our beloved Border Guard soldiers deserve special mention for their spirit of sacrifice, stoicism, discipline and steadfastness. It is impossible to imagine a more just and more precise adjective than the one used by our commander in chief when referring to them: "sleepless sentries of the fatherland." Day and night, whatever the weather conditions, in inhospitable and lonely places far from their loved ones and even occasionally out of contact with people, our Border Guard bravely and honorably defend the front line of defense of the revolution and socialism. At this very moment when we meet to celebrate this anniversary, they render the most emotional salute to our State Security Department from their positions of vigilance and combat. On this day let us send a strong communist embrace and warmest congratulations to them there in our islets and coasts and on our land.

Our Special Troops have also earned a high place in the admiration and esteem of our soldiers and all the people. They are an example of great combat and political readiness. They have boldly and bravely carried out all the missions that have been entrusted to them including honorable tasks of solidarity with other fraternal peoples. Many venerable names will remain on this organ's pages of combat glory forever. They are the symbol par excellence of the internationalist spirit of our State Security soldiers and an inspiring example for all those who aspire to achieve that position which Che justly called the highest level of man.

On this anniversary we must also salute the silent and sustained effort of the Immigration and Naturalization comrades carrying out the important missions entrusted to them.

The vigilance and control this organ exercises are essential for the security of our country. We cannot neglect them for a single moment.

We also must point out the growing importance of our medical services. At the beginning, it was a small, anonymous group of brave comrades. It has developed and improved in recent years to achieve its own structure and an advanced scientific and organizational level. The general progress of the country in the health field has been magnificently reflected here. We can say that we feel truly satisfied and proud of the work that our doctors, nurses and technicians are doing, both those who belong to our institution as well as those who offer us their brilliant and sustained collaboration.

Each one of our Security Organs has a vital, indispensable role. However, their missions cannot be evaluated individually. They form a whole in which they complement each other and support each other. Their close ties and effective collaboration have been the main guarantee for their successes.

In the same way, their fraternity and coordination with all the other forces of the Ministry of Interior, with our FAR, with the different state organisms, with the political and mass organizations and with all the people have been essential requirements of our work and an indispensable condition for all the victories we can point to today.

Throughout these years, our Security soldiers--with comrade Ramiro and those of us who share the leadership of the Ministry of Interior with him--have tried to be worthy of Fidel's teachings, to follow his correct guidelines and to emulate his example of tenacity and firmness, his devotion to duty and dedication to the people and the revolution.

There is one thing that we would like to emphasize as strongly as possible on a day like today: for us the most important, fundamental and decisive aspect was, is and always will be man.

Throughout these 25 years, our Security Department has established a beautiful tradition of struggle based on solid principles. Our soldiers have been forged in the idea that the primary quality of every man or woman in the Security Department must be to belong to the working people and serve their interests.

They are trained in the concept of devoting their lives to the revolutionary cause and doing it with complete disinterest based on daily advancement, discipline, perseverance and the strongest feeling of humanity and justice. The men and women of our Security Department are identified by their deep revolutionary convictions, faithfulness to principles, unyielding determination to conquer the enemy, tenacity, modesty, total honesty, dedication to the fulfillment of duty and absolute loyalty to our people, our party and our commander in chief.

In the struggle throughout these years, a deep love for our institution and complete devotion to make it strong, professionally profound, capable, vigorous and invincible have also been developed in our soldiers.

Without being immodest and without incurring in idealism, but because we know the men and women who make up our ranks well, we can state here today that the Security Department is a bulwark of the revolution and a forge for communists.

It has the greatest morality and the deepest humanism. The enemy, with its aggressions, its brutal attacks and its ruthless, uncurbed policy has forced us to a violent and lengthy confrontation. Without any cowardice or hypocrisy, the revolution has been forced to adopt the necessary measures for its defense.

To our soldiers, nothing has come and nothing can ever come before the right of the Cuban people to independence, freedom and socialism. However, this hard and bitter struggle has never led to insensitivity or dehumanization of our

soldiers. On the contrary, the battle against the class enemies has helped us learn to appreciate the value of our morality and our revolutionary principles even more. We have been as strict and firm as necessary but we have never been implacable. We have been strict in the application of the law but we have also known how to be generous. We have fought the enemy bravely and intelligently without giving it a minute's letup but our soldiers have never been sullied by abuse or torture of the defeated enemy. We respect our own dignity too much to resort to such procedures. The campaigns and slanders that some wretches in the CIA's service make against our country abroad, accusing us of alleged violations of human rights, are useless. No slander can be sustained long facing facts.

The truth shines by itself. Every honest man can confirm that the revolution's victories over its enemies have been victories of intelligence, courage, morality and principles against those who have demonstrated that they lack true intelligence, courage, morality and principles.

When we say that our victories and our strength are the victories and strength of the people, this is not merely a phrase. It is a profound and unquestionable truth. It is not just based on the fact that our authority comes from the endorsement and confidence that the people place in us. The masses themselves through their organizations actively contribute to our struggle and offer us decisive and indispensable support. Nothing is more just on this 25th anniversary than that we express to them our combative greetings and all the gratitude and recognition they deserve.

Our tie with the CDR is profound and proverbial. In them we have 5 million allies in the battle against imperialism and its agents. The victories we salute today are also their victories.

Close ties connect us to the Federation of Cuban Women. It also offers us its aid and its fervor. The major role of women in our Security Organs and their example of courage, ability, progress, tenacity and discipline in the fulfillment of their duties should be pointed out.

The workers and the peasants, through their respective organizations, also give us their indispensable endorsement in the production and service centers and in the cooperatives to stop the enemy and to guarantee the protection of our economy.

We also express our sincere recognition for the student organizations that offer us effective collaboration and work tenaciously to train the young generations in the patriotic and revolutionary values of our people.

We must send a very special greeting on this anniversary to the magnificent auxiliary forces made up by workers and housewives, men and women, young and old, who do not hesitate to sacrifice whatever time is necessary to give life to their beautiful and useful tasks in support of the work of our Security Department.

We must point out the important role that the political organisms, party organizations and the UJC [Union of Communist Youth] have been playing in the

Marxist-Leninist education of our soldiers, in their political and ideological training. The party has been our great collective teacher throughout these long years. Its direct and sustained action has meant our success. With its strength and prestige, it has known how to reach the hearts of the men and women in our Security Department, strengthen their convictions and develop and preserve the class and communist spirit in our ranks.

Political work in our Security Organs has added valuable experiences. It includes active command support, strengthening the awareness and discipline of the men and women in our forces. It is no accident that the immense majority of our chiefs, officers, sergeants and soldiers are members of the party and the UJC today. We are sure that the achievements and experiences accumulated will continue to improve in the future. An intense political life, based on demand and principles, will always be an important guarantee of the growing example and prestige of our Security Department soldiers.

The future reveals a struggle that will be long, hard and complex. Our main duties in the coming years will be to prepare ourselves for it and to improve our work to the maximum. To train worthy reinforcements for the soldiers who have traveled this road is one of the most important tasks of our Security Department today.

Those reinforcements must come from our best, most aware and most combative youth.

The strength and development achieved by this institution will be measured by our ability to train new generations of soldiers. Our commands, our most experienced cadres, our organisms and organizations of the party and the UJC will be measured. We all will measure ourselves.

It is work already in progress. It is a careful, serious task based on very strict criteria of quality. It must receive more emphasis and attention each day. We will do it with immense confidence in the revolutionary caliber of our youths. We do not have the slightest doubt that the new generation of Security Department soldiers will be staunch and worthy reinforcements for the veteran guards who have written such brilliant pages in these years filled with heroism. They will also have difficult missions in which to forge themselves and grow as men and fighters. They will have the experience of our veterans, our great patriotic and internationalist traditions and all the material and human progress we have made throughout these years. We are sure that, in their young, firm hands, the heroic banner of Alberto Delgado, Edo Reyes, Alfredo Gamonal, Antonio Briones, Olo Pantoja and Captain San Luis will advance invincibly toward the future.

For those of us who love this institution and consider it part of our own lives, nothing can be as inspiring and beautiful as to talk today about our achievements and our prospects. However, we could never commit the error of forgetting, on a day like today, how much we owe to the international solidarity we have received from our brothers in other parts of the world. We could never be so ungrateful as to think that all our advances, all our development, all our achievements are the exclusive fruits of our forces alone.

We owe fraternal and valuable collaboration to the State Security Organs of the great fatherland of Lenin, the USSR. We could say the same of the Security Organs of other fraternal socialist countries.

They have given us the experience extracted from more than 60 years of heroic and unselfish struggle. The knowledge and resources they offer us save our soldiers and our working people blood, sweat and sacrifices. We are proud of those relations that expand and deepen each day. We are proud and happy to celebrate this 25th anniversary with our beloved comrades, advisers and specialists from the USSR and other socialist countries and with the worthy representatives of our brothers in Security Departments in those fraternal nations attending this ceremony.

We give them and the institutions they represent our greetings, our recognition and our sincerest gratitude today.

Internationalism is a most sacred and inviolable principle for our Security Organs also.

In internationalism we see the best expression of the development of communist awareness. As the revolution and Fidel have taught us, we understand it as a moral duty to help other peoples and to share all the risks and dangers that threaten them, if necessary. With our people and our armed forces, we have helped give life to this principle in crucial times. These have already become part of the history of the revolutionary movement. However, our contribution has not been limited to that. Year after year the cooperation that our Security Department offers other fraternal peoples faced by aggression and hostility of the imperialists and reactionaries has grown. Many of our cadres and soldiers have carried out these tasks with honor and dedication. We must congratulate them today and state that we will continue working unfalteringly to strengthen and develop our ties of cooperation with the fraternal countries that need our aid and collaboration.

Let us take this occasion to send our combative greetings and our message of militant solidarity to our brothers in the Security Organs of heroic Nicaragua. They confront brutal imperialist aggression with firmness and determination. By expressing our sentiments and our deepest affection to them, we express our deep conviction that the enemy can never defeat the intrepid Sandinist soldiers in whom we see the image of the heroic General of Free Men reborn and multiplied.

We must repeat once more that our main enemy, U.S. imperialism, has not abandoned and will probably never abandon the idea of destroying the Cuban Revolution.

If the experience of all these years has taught us one thing, it is that forms of struggle can change, methods can be changed and the main emphasis of the enemy can change from one sphere to another. However, what does not change is the imperialist intention to cause us as much harm as possible and to hinder the advance of our fatherland as much as possible.

As we said a moment ago, we must be realistic and prepare to face a struggle whose duration we cannot even predict. It suffices to observe what is happening in many parts of the world. It suffices to observe the procedures that Yankee imperialism used in the crime of Grenada and those that it uses against Nicaragua, El Salvador, Lebanon and other progressive peoples and governments of the world. These suffice to clearly understand that the dangers and risks that a country like ours, one with an unwavering and incorruptible revolutionary position, faces will always be present.

These 25 years have also left us experience etched with fire in our own flesh. We have learned what the class struggle is and we will never delude ourselves. We have learned what imperialism is and what the CIA is. From La Coubre to Barbados, from the first pirate attacks to the recent introduction of diseases and insects in our country, from the assassination of peasants and teachers to the most sophisticated plans against Fidel and other leaders of the revolution, nothing is unknown to us. We know there is nothing more immoral, more brutal and more unscrupulous than the force that these institutions represent.

The current U.S. Government, far from hiding or covering up the crimes of the CIA and the interventionist actions of its troops, boasts about them, proclaims them chauvinistically and arrogantly and apparently tries to make them examples of the determination and strength of which, according to its absurd plans, the United States should be proud.

It has been said--and not without reason--that the main representatives of this administration are impregnated with an out-dated fascist and reactionary mentality.

The Reagan government, with its policy of confrontation and war, has placed basic emphasis on pushing the arms race, military interventionism in different areas, subversion, espionage and psychological warfare against socialism, the revolutionary processes and the popular and progressive movement throughout the world.

Both the Pentagon and the CIA have received the highest budget allotments in history. The CIA has openly been given a green light to use all its means against the governments and forces that the Yankee administration considers its political enemies. The Reagan government has maintained complete silence in response to a demand that it publicly declare that it will never again resort to organizing attacks against the lives of leaders of revolutionary countries. It has not uttered a single word of condemnation of the dirty and barbaric practices that the CIA has been using for many years. We will draw pertinent conclusions from this suspicious position and we will not neglect vigilance for a single second facing any sign that the CIA is again encouraging training, induction or financing of planned attacks against leaders of the Cuban Revolution.

We must continue fighting a tenacious, all-out battle to unravel the plans of the enemy, crush its attempts at internal subversion, detect and eliminate its agents and collaborators, defend the economy against its aggressions and guarantee the peace of our people and the defense and security of our socialist fatherland.

The encouragement the U.S. imperialist government gives today to counterrevolutionary and antisocialist activities throughout the world is expressed cynically and openly, in the case of our country, in the intention to organize a government radio station mainly directed at Cuba. Apparently this plan is already quite advanced. Confrontation in the arena of ideas with the Yankee imperialists does not intimidate us. For 25 years our concepts have confronted the rotten, decadent and reactionary Yankee ideology; we have always emerged victorious. Far from weakening us, this challenge will strengthen us and toughen us much more. The Yankee rulers are apparently incapable of assimilating past experiences.

Facing the danger of aggression in any of its possible variants, we will continue improving our collaboration with the FAR and other national institutions, under party leadership, to prepare our people to resist and defeat any enemy attack. We will assimilate the successful experience of the Bastion-83 strategic exercise and we will improve even more in this next stage.

We will have the nerve to face any challenge. Under any circumstance we will always be ready, calm and willing to do whatever is necessary. The enemy will never catch us unprepared.

This is the attitude, the determination and the spirit with which we Security Department soldiers welcome this date.

Marti said that nothing exalts us as much as being just and rendering honor to one who deserves it.

Therefore, in a special way I want to transmit an embrace of gratitude and recognition from the Security Department soldiers to two people who, due to their great responsibility in the leadership and defense of the revolution, were not only the forgers of this institution but have been its constant guides, teachers and orienters throughout these years and the authors of all our achievements and victories: comrades Fidel and Raul.

At a time when our Security Department did not yet exist, in the times of Moncada, prison, exile, "Granma" and the sierra, Fidel and Raul, Camilo and Che founded the policy and established the solid revolutionary and human principles on which our work has been based and will always be based.

During all this period, facing every complex or delicate situation, Fidel and Raul have directly participated in order to point the correct road we should follow.

They have constantly given the work of the Security Department, its technical and scientific development and the solution of its material needs their most solicitous attention. In them our soldiers have had, have today and will always have an unsurpassable example of courage, intelligence, boldness, imagination and generosity.

The heroic work of the revolution which demands effort and sacrifices also means enormous satisfactions. There will never be a greater honor for the men and women in our Security Department than to feel we are Fidel's soldiers.

We will always have the stimulus, the teachings and the example he offers us.

We present our unlimited loyalty to the revolutionary and combatant people who were with us in these years of hard struggle, who gave us their humble and heroic sons and who supported us decisively in each battle and each victory.

We present our embrace as brothers to the illustrious FAR, unbreakable shield of the fatherland and the revolution.

We present our affectionate greeting to the veteran founders of our Security Department, to the families of our unforgettable martyrs, to all those who have worked with self-denial and sacrifice to make this emotional 25th anniversary possible.

We present our warmest congratulations, last, to the most distinguished soldier of the State Security Department, to the anonymous protagonist of its victories, to the silent hero, to our undercover agents and collaborators who fulfill their duty in the heart of the enemy itself with courage and firmness.

Wherever they are, we salute them with infinite admiration, we clasp them to our hearts and we render the most fervent tribute to their unsurpassable example of stoicism and unwavering revolutionary spirit. Although their names may be silent and always remain silent, the grateful fatherland and the revolutionary movement will never forget their worthy and brave feats.

For them, for the fallen who did not reach this hour of honor and victory, let us lift our voices and proclaim today with the firmest determination, optimism and absolute confidence in the future that this brave people, its heroic FAR and our soldiers of the Ministry of Interior, under the direction of our illustrious party, will defend Fidel's revolution to our last drop of blood.

Long live our heroic State Security Organs!

Long live our invincible revolution!

Long live our illustrious party!

Long live Fidel!

Fatherland or death!

We will win!

7717

CSO: 3248/551

U.S. RESPONSE TO WORLD OPINION ON MINING CALLED SHAMELESS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 8

[Article by Juan Marrero: "Satan Himself"]

[Text] We could call the response the U.S. Government gave world public opinion concerning the explosion of a mine in Puerto Sandino--which wounded several crewmen on the Soviet oil ship "Lugansk"--one of the greatest effronteries by Yankee imperialists in recent years.

The statements by State Department spokesman Alan Romberg, White House spokesman Larry Speakes and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger about that event which demonstrates the danger of the aggressive, venturesome and irresponsible policy of the Reagan administration in Central America are as shameless as this new act of piracy: mining Nicaraguan ports in an attempt to blockade the Sandinist popular revolution.

Romberg said: "The Soviets had no reason to complain because the mining of certain Nicaraguan ports had been widely announced and publicized." At the same time, he refused to answer questions from the reporters about whether the mine had been supplied by the United States.

Speakes revealed that the blame for that mine explosion "is the Soviets' since they encourage the Central American and Caribbean conflict."

Following that same line and carrying out the orders of Satan himself in the White House, Eagleburger stated: "Moscow lacks any basis for complaint when the existing situation endangers Soviet ships in the area." The explosion of a mine in Puerto Sandino "is something that Moscow must discuss with the Nicaraguan Government since the incident occurred in Nicaraguan waters."

Greater cynicism, greater effrontery, greater impudence, greater shamelessness cannot be conceived.

Who do the Yankee imperialists think will believe the story that they are not involved in that criminal act?

Who are they going to tell that those mines have been handmade by the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries or purchased by them from any country?

Those mines are not handmade nor sold everywhere. They are only in the Pentagon and CIA warehouses.

It is necessary to have equipment and specialization to place them. That requires long months of study and training. If the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries did it, they first had to be trained and advised by officers of the CIA and the Pentagon.

It is no secret that this is the work of Reagan.

Why, then, is he so desperate for new aid for the undeclared war against Nicaragua to be approved immediately?

Reagan stated recently in an interview with the French newspaper LE MONDE that the popular, independent and sovereign revolution in Nicaragua "is unacceptable to the United States." He wants to impose his conditions and his laws on it.

He has not learned the lessons of history.

He has not learned that another Satan, Richard M. Nixon, mined the ports of Vietnam to try to bend and defeat that people. He achieved nothing but the most resounding failure and, in the end, total defeat of his criminal and aggressive policy.

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CSO: 3248/551

AIRD IN FAVOR OF IDB LOAN FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 21 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Jose Romero]

[Text] The Association of Dominican Industries [AIRD] urged the Chamber of Deputies yesterday to approve promptly the \$50 million Inter-American Development Bank loan for the industrial activization of the country.

The president of this association, Jose del Carmen Ariza, stated that the chamber's president has welcomed the generous loan, approved in record time by the senate, and expects to include it in this week's agenda.

He pointed out that all the groups that make up AIRD have sent him telegrams urging the approval of the loan because of the urgent need for working capital by the small- and medium-size industries, especially those that tend to replace the importation of products made from imported raw materials. [sic]

He stated that the fact that there has been unanimous agreement by the industrial sector on the advantages of this program is an important element. He indicated that this is a big step, not only from the point of view of industrial rehabilitation but also from the point of view of trade.

For example, he explained the mechanism by which the Central Bank will receive the loan in dollars that it will use for introducing foreign exchange into the open market, helping to ease pressure on the prime rate.

But at the same time this implies a withdrawal of currency and, what is better yet, these will be disbursements without excessive issuance.

Ariza pointed out that the program thus established could give 38 percent of the total amount (in pesos) to the manufacturer, which will in turn go to the banks seeking letters of credit for importing raw materials at the official parity of one to one.

The remaining 62 percent goes to the commercial and development banks, which convert it into pesos based on the exchange rate of the day.

The dollars sold in the open market through the Reserve Bank will permit an ample flow of resources to the Central Bank, in pesos, to be used by FIDE [Investment Fund for Economic Development] at a later date.

Ariza pointed out that dollars are being infused into the market, on the one hand, and on the other pesos are being drawn out and put into circulation among the intermediaries with a balancing entry by the latter.

In this way, the original amount of the loan reaches approximately \$150 million in pesos.

Also he observed that this process takes money out of business funds that otherwise would go to purchase imports, and puts it at the service of the industrial sector, which is the objective.

Ariza specified the upper limit for requests per enterprise, namely \$300,000, which will allow a larger number of businesses, some 246 altogether, to benefit from the program.

Ariza stated that the restriction of credit to an average upper limit for the small- and medium-size businessman would also serve to set an upper limit for large industry.

He indicated that a maximum of \$300,000 is high for the small- and medium-size enterprises, on the average, although low for a large business.

In his opinion, this restriction is a factor in the popular acceptance of the program and in the apportionment of capital in order to avoid its concentration.

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CSO: 3248/523

RESULTS OF PCD THIRD CONGRESS DESCRIBED

Leftist Unity Stressed

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 3 D

[Article by Saul Pimentel]

[Text] Narciso Isa Conde was reelected secretary general of the Dominican Communist Party (PCD). At the same time the organization selected the new members of its Central Committee.

The election took place at the end of the Third Congress of the PCD, a 3 day event held in the headquarters of the party, on Independencia Avenue.

Isa Conde received 219 votes out of a total of 280 that were declared to be valid. Although the painter Silvano Lora received 234 votes, more than Isa Conde, the former did not become secretary general because in the PCD this office is determined by decision of the Central Committee rather than by the number of votes.

There are eight new members in the Central Committee, which currently has 27 members. They are Odalis Martinez, Fausto Collado, Nelson Perez Marte, Alfredo Pierre, Daniel Santana, Fausto Lopez, Domingo Rosario, Tancredo Vargas and Lourdes Contrera, who is the first woman leader, and who was proposed by the nucleus of women representatives in the congress.

Three communists who were engaged in polemics with the leadership in recent months and who even questioned the work that the latter was carrying out, were not reelected to the Central Committee. They are Braulio Torres, Luis Salce and Raul Cuevas.

A press release of the PCD sent to this newspaper says in this regard that "the Third Congress of the PCD condemned, by a vote of over 80 votes for and 59 against, the group activity that was being carried out" by those national leaders.

It notes that "in that context some delegates proposed that these three former leaders be expelled from the PCD, but the majority of the leadership and of the delegates sought only a political reproof of those deeds, while at the same time giving the sanctioned leaders an opportunity to reflect."

Another person not reelected to the Central Committee was Dr Osvaldo Marte Duran, due, according to the note, "to his growing professional commitments which kept him from dedicating the time necessary for his functions as a national leader of the PCD."

Unity Ratified

The Third Congress of the PCD ratified the policy of unity with the other leftist groups and of "militant" solidarity with the struggling peoples of the whole world, especially the Central American revolutionary process that today has its highest exponents in Nicaragua and El Salvador, adds the press release from the office of publicity of the PCD.

It indicates that the 320 delegates and approximately 60 national guests approved with applause the part of the report of the Central Committee which described in detail the most important aspects of the work "of unity" which has been carried out, which has resulted in the setting up of the Dominican Left Front.

In the report, read by Narciso Isa Conde in the name of the Central Committee, were cited the difficulties still to be overcome to make the Left Front a more effective instrument of political struggle.

Among other things, it was stressed that "much of the Left is no longer devoting its effort to mutual detraction" and that political relations have improved considerably among the different organizations of the Front and on different levels of the same.

'Divisionist' Members Expelled

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 28 Mar 84 p 4

[Article by Saul Pimentel]

[Text] Two members of the PCD were expelled from that organization for supposedly carrying out "group activity" and maintaining a defamatory campaign against the leaders elected at the recent congress of the PCD.

The Executive Committee of the PCD warned that it would apply "exemplary sanctions" against any other member who "commits acts which affect the unity of the party and violate its statutory regulations."

Those expelled are Rafael Pimentel and Aristides Arroyo, who allegedly maintained a "divisionist attitude" within the party, along with Miguel Aponte, said to be an ex-militant of the organization.

Pimentel and Aponte announced the day before yesterday, during a visit to the editorial office of LISTIN DIARIO, that a series of internal problems that have affected the PCD for some time had gotten worse and had degenerated into occupation of some locations by an "armed group" and the dissolution of one of the principal committees of the National District.

They stated that the problems arose when various members of the PCD, including some members of the Central Committee, began to question the attitude of the party toward the government and other positions it has maintained toward both international and national questions.

Among the "questioners" they mentioned Braulio Torres, Luis Salce, Raul Cuevas, Aristides Arroyo and themselves (Aponte and Pimentel).

In a public document, the Executive Committee of the PCD clarifies that Braulio Torres, Luis Salce and Raul Cuevas were not elected to the new Central Committee of the party "after the congress had condemned the factionalism they had carried out before the election."

It adds: "The language employed by Mr Pimentel and Mr Aponte, charged with falsehoods and accusations taken from the anticommunist arsenal, is the expression of a factionalist conduct which has been broadly disseminated with the intent to harm our party and to exaggerate a limited and inconsequential conflict."

It indicates that, applying the policy decision of the Third Congress of the PCD, which condemns the factionalist effort, and the article of the statutes which considers that attitude to be a serious lack of party discipline, the Central Committee has resolved:

--To expel Rafael Pimentel and Aristides Arroyo from the party and to submit this decision to the ratification of the plenum of the Central Committee.

--To announce publicly that Mr Miguel Aponte is not a militant of the PCD, since he turned in his membership card which identified him as a militant and he resigned from the Julius Fucik journalists' cell on 5 March 1984.

--To warn the members of the PCD who may feel inclined to support that group practice that sanctions will be applied to anyone who commits acts which affect party unity and violate the statutory regulations of the party by interpreting in this way the majority expression of the members.

--To request "Comrades" Braulio Torres, Raul Cuevas and Luis Salce, considering that Mr Miguel Aponte and Mr Rafael Pimentel have represented themselves repeatedly as a kind of public spokesmen of theirs and that the former have tried to justify this factionalism by defending it in the face of the agreements of the Third Congress, to disassociate themselves publicly from that conduct and to assume an attitude of disapproval of the defamatory campaign and of that reaction contrary to the decision of the great majority of the members of the party.

--To express the disposition to incorporate Comrades Braulio Torres and Luis Salce (not Raul Cuevas, who is a member of the Southern Regional Committee) into another organism of the party since the congress had left them out of the Central Committee; this decision depends on both of them disassociating themselves publicly from the group activity to which Pimentel and Aponte had linked them permanently with their statements.

OPPOSITION PARTIES ASK JCE FOR GUARANTEES

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 24 Mar 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] Representatives from seven opposing political parties threatened yesterday to abstain if the Central Electoral Board (JCE) fails to adopt a series of measures to guarantee the integrity of the coming elections.

Among those measures, they said, are the establishment of a single ballot and the updating of the electoral registry, as well as the control by the JCE of the civil registry clerkships and of the general administration of the identity cards.

They also advocated increasing the budget of the JCE so that it can do better work.

This notice was given yesterday during a press conference held by retired General Elias Wessin y Wessin of the Democratic Quisqueyan Party (PQD); Guarionez Lluberes, of the Christian Social Revolutionary Party (PRSC); and Manuel Fernandez, of the National Conciliation Movement (MCN).

It was said that the MVP [Movement for Popular Choice] went along with the statements made by those parties, some of which, they did not submit to.

Wessin, who was the spokesman, said that the participation of these organizations in the coming election depends on the guarantee by the JCE that the election will not be fraudulent.

Lluberes Montas, a member of the governing body of the PR, said that he personally supported those statements, but he made it clear that the final decision regarding his party's abstention in the election is in the hands of the party's national assembly.

During the press conference, which took place at the PRSC headquarters, it was said that the JCE is resisting the demands made by groups of the opposition that irregularities in the electoral system be corrected.

It was said that if the present irregularities persist, the same thing that happened during the last elections, when a considerable number of Dominicans could not exercise their right to vote because of problems with the electoral registry, will happen again.

Last 24 January, at the conclusion of a meeting at Fiesta De Luxe, representatives of these same parties announced that they had agreed to work together towards obtaining guarantees that the general election of 1986 will be open and nonfraudulent.

At the time they demanded that the JCE be assigned the necessary resources so that it can start, in plenty of time, to correct the irregularities in the electoral registry and to prepare an educational and informational campaign regarding the use of the single ballot.

9907

CSO: 3248/523

COUNTRY SECTION

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

PRC ASSEMBLY DELEGATION--A delegation of PRC's popular assembly arrived in Quito today for an official visit that will last until 19 April. The delegation, headed by the PRC vice president, will pay formal visits to Ecuador's highest authorities, First President O SVALDO Hurtado, and then heads of various government organizations. [Summary] [PA141937 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Apr 84 PA]

CSO: 3348/381

SALVADORANS, PSUM GROUP BLAMED FOR UNREST IN CAPITAL SUBURB

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Mar 84 pp 4-A, 27-A

[Article by Nidia Marin]

[Text] Residents of Ajusco held up the train to Cuernavaca and robbed cement from one of its cars, Maria de los Angeles Alvarez de Ruiz, the leader of the settlers, claimed. Meanwhile, Deputy Jose Parcerro Lopez denied that the main reason for the resignation of Juan Maldonado Pereda as secretary general of the Federal District Department was the problem of the disputed lands and the attack that he suffered in that southern section of the city.

Interviewed separately, the two agreed that the residents of the disputed lands in Ajusco live in a climate of violence and provocation. Ajusco is a strip of land running from the the train tracks to the antenna of Channel 22. Mrs Ruiz remarked that this climate was due to the lack of an official response to the land tenure problem.

Appealing to the Federal District Department (DDF) to resolve the problem, she said that more than 22,000 persons in 12,000 families are living amid uncertainty, "fearing that Jeronimo Martinez's shock groups might attack us, as has been happening for a year now even though complaints have been filed against these individuals."

The lack of an official response "is endangering the legal security and the social calm in that area."

Deputy Parcerro Lopez had this to say: "The Salvadorans who have infiltrated Ajusco are the ones who are causing unrest, frightening and annoying the people there. More than 50 complaints have already been filed, and I wouldn't be surprised if the arrest warrants were issued soon."

Not Guerrillas

At the close of the ceremony at which the Board of Directors of the Mexican Architects Association was sworn in, the legislator was asked whether Juan Maldonado Perez had resigned because of the attack that he suffered and because of the Ajusco land dispute. He gave assurances that neither had anything to do with it.

He also denied that there were guerrillas on those lands, explaining however that "it is a group of agitators who are hiding behind the banner of the Left or of the PSUM, but they have no political aim; they just agitate and go about their business. They have no ideology. But they have committed serious crimes."

He commented that the DDF is embarking on a program to define the status of the lands that the former owners sold under private contracts.

Mrs Alvarez de Ruiz asserted, however, that "the provocateurs are members of the PSUM, PST [Socialist Workers Party] and the National Coordinator of the Popular Urban Movement (CONAMUP)."

She added: "The area has become practically impossible to live in, because even the children of the 552 families that Jeronimo Martinez Diaz heads are armed with spears and knives to attack our children. There have even been kidnappings to pressure settlers from the opposing group to abandon their plots so that the CONAMUP people can take them over."

Train Holdup

Mrs Alvarez de Ruiz also stated that a few days ago "they held up the train to Cuernavaca and stole cement from one of the cars. And they're preparing to hold up the train again. There has been mention of wooden and concrete retainers with rolls of barbed wire."

She also mentioned that according to the most recent census conducted in the area, its seven districts (Bosques del Pedregal, Dos de Octubre, Encinal, Lomas de Padierna, Mirador and the urban zone of San Andres Totoltepec) are home to 22,995 persons in 11,554 families.

She said that Bosques del Pedregal and Lomas de Padierna were the oldest settlements, dating from 1978.

In conclusion, she said that families in the seven districts are in a difficult situation because they are being pressured by the real owners now that payments on the properties have been suspended, by Martinez's group and by the Federal District authorities, who have not yet issued a ruling.

8743

CSO: 3248/546

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

BRIEFS

REPRESSION OF SOCONUSCO GROUPS CHARGED--Tapachula, Chiapas, 1 Apr--The state government is systematically repressing the grassroots rallies that have been staged lately in the Soconusco region, the leader of the local Labor, Peasant, Student Coalition, Alonso Rodriguez Gamboa, claims. He called for the intervention of the Secretariat of Government. During a congress in Soconusco honoring the memory of Gen Sebastian Escobar, who fought with the republican troops against the French intervention, Rodriguez Gamboa said that the region should be made the country's 33rd state "because it has always been free." He went on to say that Soconusco has been joined politically to Chiapas but that "historically we have been free, and the people who govern us and have no background information ought to be made aware of this."

[Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Apr 84 p 36-A] 8743

CSO: 3248/546

UNAG OFFICIAL ANALYZES PROBLEMS OF SMALL, MEDIUM FARMERS

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Mar 84 p 3

[Interview with UNAG Secretary General Wilberto Lara; date and place not specified]

[Text] Introduction

Because of the lack of specific statistical information, and possibly too much publicity given to the private sector of large-scale production, the fact that small and medium-sized cooperativized production constitutes the main source of supplies for the population's basic consumption is not well known in our country.

As we shall observe in this "Socioeconomic Monday," small and medium-sized production also plays a major role in the output of exportable items, such as cotton and coffee. Nevertheless, as Wilberto Lara says in the interview that serves as the basis for the information on the role of small-scale producers, it has been the large production sector that has not always responded positively to the incentives that the revolution is offering it; rather, it has set itself up as a political sector concerned with gaining political leadership against the revolutionary process.

Lara remarks: "We are living in expectation of progress in agrarian reform; they, on the other hand, are doing the opposite." This reflects a difference in positions toward the revolution which, in turn, determines a very different social and political conduct between both sectors of national production with regard to the goals that the latter should seek in the patriotic effort for reconstruction.

The large producers are "reactivating" only on the basis of state financing; the small and medium-sized ones are producing as they can. The one group is primarily concerned with how much foreign exchange it is going to procure; the other one thinks first of the goal of what it must produce. The large producers are not even producing for the consumption of their production centers.

The interview with the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Livestock Raisers] secretary general affords extensive, well-documented information on the

fundamental topic of production, while at the same time citing the difficulties which that sector is facing in its patriotic task of producing what is consumed by the Nicaraguan people, critically indicating the state's administrative shortcomings and proposing solutions for concrete problems that affect its activity.

"To date, UNAG has combined the country's most extensive livestock-raising sector; we have organized small and medium-sized producers and the cooperativized livestock-raising sector as well. And it is not without reason that UNAG has emerged as their representative which, in short, is a response to livestock development under the revolution."

The reply from the head of the powerful National Union of Farmers and Livestock Raisers, Wilberto Lara, is the first in a lengthy interview held by BARRICADA, in which the patriotic nature and the real economic weight carried by this organization within the most extensive area of the private sector in Nicaragua become evident.

Wilberto identifies the thousands of UNAG members as peasants, or small and medium-sized producers and, in each facet of production, stresses what he describes as "heroic, constructive" behavior, when commenting on the attitude of the Nicaraguans organized into this union.

This is the interview:

BARRICADA: Perhaps we can talk about real numbers. What influence do the UNAG members have on production? We would like some examples.

Lara: The small and medium-sized livestock producers, both individual and cooperative, have formed their own organizational structure (cooperatives), and I think that it is still too early to talk about membership figures. What I can say is that the small and medium-sized producers as a whole have found their place in UNAG, because it represents their interests on the national level.

To give you a few examples, we small and medium-sized producers own 60 percent of the livestock herds. To be sure, it is not a sufficiently well-bred livestock, because this is traditional livestock raising, but that is something else. With those herds, we are producing cheese, milk and meat for domestic consumption and export.

In Coffee, Cotton and Staple Grains

We are virtually the only producers of staple grains. The basic diet is our responsibility. The UNAG peasants raise 98 percent of the corn produced, and 80 percent of the beans produced is ours as well. In the area of garden produce, 98 percent is produced by the UNAG members (cabbage, tomatoes, onions, etc.). All the sesame seed is produced by our members, but with regard to rice, we must admit that the large producers and APP [People's Ownership Sector] produce nearly all of it.

Insofar as coffee is concerned, our share of the 1982-83 crop was 600,000 quintales out of 1.6 million quintales produced (or 37.5 percent). The problems that we have been experiencing with the lack of labor and the attacks, the lack of machinery and roads and the shortages of warehouses and storage places have become worse with the blockade that we are undergoing; but nevertheless, the performance has been courageous and determined.

The peasant comrades have been mobilized for defense, and by the thousands. This year, more tools have been needed to harvest the crops, and our production is traditional and in war zones; but despite everything, we have exceeded 300,000 quintales.

We expect the Renewal Plan and the Coffee Rust Plan to help us raise production, thereby contributing to meeting the goals for 1984-85 that the government will promote, wherein we expect to come close to the 600,000 quintales of 1982-83. Of the 138,000 manzanas planted throughout the entire country, the small and medium-sized producers and cooperatives account for 37.5 percent; the large producers, 37 percent; and APP, 25.5 percent.

BARRICADA: How do you explain the enormous increase in UNAG's cotton production? We have learned that it rose from 8,000 manzanas in 1980, to 15,000 in 1981, to 20,000 in 1982 and to 41,000 in 1983.

Lara: In this last harvest, UNAG's cotton production was equivalent to 29.2 percent. We attribute this first of all to agrarian reform, which has made the turnover of land to the small and medium-sized producers possible. Another important factor is the receptiveness that has always been given to the goals proposed by the government; and an essential aspect is the solidarity that exists among the peasant sector for undertaking production.

We had no imports of machinery this year, but there was great mutual cooperation among our members; something called "turning a hand." It occurred not only with the labor, but also with the little equipment available; because the state really lacks the capacity to cover the expanse planted, which amounted to a total of 140,000 manzanas.

There is something else important that I would like to mention to you. Our production is of the best quality, because the cutting is generally manual. We have achieved more than the national average in output per manzana (32 quintales); and we succeeded in surmounting the major difficulties with input which, combined with the sometimes even primitive types of cultivation, exerted pressure on the output.

But the spirit of solidarity was shown even in that respect. We used ox plowing in some locations, and the solidarity occurred; because the work was done with the awareness that we were keeping the promise and saluting the fourth anniversary of the revolution and Sandino's 50th anniversary.

Incentives for Production

BARRICADA: How do you evaluate the policies on economic incentives that JGRN [Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction] has been granting since 1982 to agricultural and livestock producers?

Lara: I shall give you a few examples. Up until 1982, the marketing and pricing of milk and its by-products had been nearly all decided upon by the middleman; the latter set the prices with the wholesalers, and prices fluctuated to the detriment of the interests of producers and consumers.

With the summer price and a different one for winter, the middlemen "were playing a game," and in view of this unfair situation, UNAG made the first moves to regulate the price paid to the producer of milk and cheese in a uniform fashion all year long. In 1982, the price of a pound of cheese was set at 9 cordobas, and it was an incentive and fairness on the part of the government; but as a result of the world crisis, the production costs increased.

Last year, through UNAG, the producers proposed a new price which the government approved, of 11 cordobas per pound of cheese, and 19.50 cordobas per gallon of milk in winter, and 21.50 cordobas in summer. The action was taken so that PROLACSA [Dairy Production Enterprise] would also take over the production in the areas where the enterprise could purchase milk; something which the government instructed and which we admit was an incentive.

But we are still negotiating, and we have some problems with MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] (they will be described subsequently) that we are attempting to solve.

In the area of meat, the incentives being given for weaned calves are obvious. Not long ago, a weaned calf was worth 1,500 cordobas, and today the price is 2,500 cordobas or more, depending on its quality and weight. The government has put the cattle raiser in an advantageous situation in comparison with the grazer who had been the one left with the best portion. The male livestock raiser has also received great profits, because at present a young bull weighing 320 kilograms is priced at up to 4,000 cordobas, whereas a year ago it was worth between 3,000 and 3,500 cordobas.

The credit policy could not be more open. For instance, we note flexible loans set at 8 percent per year, with terms of up to 15 years, which enable the producer to accrue the income return based on the times.

The reconsideration of the National Patriotic Tax lent a mark of stimulation and incentive to livestock development.

The Problems

BARRICADA: What are the main problems of the small and medium-sized producers with the state?

Lara: I shall list the leading ones for you, and I want to let you know that we admit that, sometimes, we have needed to be more forceful to achieve a solution.

Some officials have little understanding of the important role played by small and medium-sized livestock raisers in production.

In marketing, the guarantee prices are victims of foot-dragging, while the crops wait, as in the case of onions. MICOIN has been unable to give us the guarantee price, and this product is being taken to El Salvador by boxcar.

Whereas, last year, the price was 500 cordobas per quintal, this year they have offered 400; but there has been no decision, and so the wholesalers come with their boxcars to the Sebaco cooperatives and make their deals, offering up to 700 cordobas. UNAG is continuing to exert pressure. This cannot go on.

Similarly, there has been a postponement of the guarantee price for cheese. Seven thousand peasant families are involved in producing 80 percent of the cheese that we produce in the fifth region. Three studies have been made, and we have not achieved anything.

We realize that there are problems, and that there is no storage capacity, but the government should tell us definitely the reasons why it is impossible to establish a policy on guarantee prices of certain products; and we would accept it with a patriotic spirit. But we are pressing for concrete decisions.

The problems that I cite as follows are real:

Milk:

- a. Lack of adequate collection in some locations.
- b. Absence of pressure from MICOIN in some areas where the middlemen set the prices.

Cheese:

- a. Current reconsideration of production costs.
- b. Inefficient collection and marketing system.
- c. Little control over the prices paid to the producer.

Livestock:

- a. Marketing of cattle on the hoof by ENAMARA.
- b. Irregularities in the payments at times; very slow.
- c. Slaughter of females with regulation for producers.
- d. Shortage of veterinary products, especially vaccines against common diseases: black foot and malignant edema, anthrax, equine encephalitis and hog cholera.

- e. Poor service from PROAGRO [Agricultural Program] in certain areas, with regard to the distribution of staple feed for livestock.
- f. Shortage of machinery for livestock production. Lack of cutters, hammer mills, tanks, etc.
- g. Shortage of spare parts and tires for the producer's work vehicles.

The Grain Situation

One of the main problems affecting staple grain production is the quality of the seed. MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform] must deal with this problem. Sometimes we have had as much as 70 percent germination of the seed, which has a negative effect on fulfillment of the goals that have been devised.

There is also a lack of calculation. For example, it is claimed that we are going to plant 200,000 manzanas with corn, but the producer finds that the number of plants growing on each manzana is 70 percent. For the next harvest, the government will have to talk with the bases. UNAG is concerned about fulfilling the goals, but that policy has prompted us to use land very far removed from the penetrating roads; and afterwards, the collecting of the products is ineffective as well.

In spite of everything, we admit that the National Development Bank and the financial system have been the government institutions which have understood our situation most.

The Major Areas of Policy and the Next Harvest

BARRICADA: Why have some sectors of large producers expressed misgivings about the reactivation of production and undertaking new investments? Could there be economic reasons, or is it chiefly for political reasons?

Lara: It is true. Some have engaged in "reactivating" using the expedient of government financing. The differences that can be established between this type of producer and UNAG are obvious. For example, if we were told that there was no seed to plant this year, I assure you that we would produce anyway; on the other hand, those other sectors which do not consider this revolution to be theirs would not plant nor produce, despite the fact that the revolution has been "scolding" them, claiming that the only thing that concerns them is making more profits and asking for more money, without reinvesting.

We think that they should be required to reinvest. Every agricultural season, the first thing they start saying is: How much foreign exchange are you going to give us? We, on the other hand, think about how many manzanas we are going to plant as a goal.

We are living in expectation of progress in agrarian reform, while they do the opposite. Some are using production activity to gain political leadership, such as Mr Bolanos. We, on the other hand, are raising production. As you see, there are two different attitudes. We call upon them to produce, and to work so as to reactivate the economy.

BARRICADA: How do the prospects appear for the 1984-85 agricultural season? What measures should the state adopt to guarantee a good harvest?

Lara: In the first place, with the 1984 Economic Plan, before embarking on the general instructions, there should be an extensive discussion, to ascertain whether we have the supplies of foreign exchange, machinery and material resources that the production requires.

So we, realizing the difficulties, shall start our own policy, using the resources that we have traditionally had. We shall fulfill the plan, but realizing what problems we are going to have; in other words, we are concerned about discussing the entire National Economic Plan.

The only prospect that we can discuss is the desire of our sector to fulfill the goals. This has been proven by the facts; the more aggression we have suffered, the more we have produced.

For example, during the year just ended we planted 191,000 manzanas with corn, out of the 202,000 that were scheduled; and we did so by our own effort. With regard to beans, we exceeded the goals with 34,000 manzanas instead of the 33,000 that had been set as a goal.

For this reason, we demand that the Economic Plan be discussed with us.

The Problem With Corn

BARRICADA: In this connection, why do you think it has been impossible to solve the problem of corn production?

Lara: We think that, first of all, realistic goals should be guaranteed, that there should be effective mechanisms for collection and that the input should have at least 60 percent of its quality ensured. I have already explained to you the matter of the germination, but we want quality in the insecticides also.

But there is something else important. We believe that the large producers and APP should also be engaged in producing grain, even if only for their workers' consumption until harvest time. That is a constant concern, because the peasants have always had the "obligation" to produce the grain. In their programs, they should be required to produce corn, beans and other grains.

The fact is that the large producers have engaged in merely their business with the agro-export producers, but they are not concerned about food, not even for their own consumption, and this should be scheduled in the programs.

BARRICADA: How do you assess the relationship between small and medium-sized producers and the wage-earning workers?

Lara: It may seem untrue, but we are their main defenders. Since we produce the basic diet, we make the effort to yield the production with a financing price that does not cover the production costs 100 percent.

The family efforts are a part of this. For example, if we were to include in the production cost the labor of the peasant woman, who makes the food, and the cost of administration, caretaking and other items, we would raise the costs. The fact is that we have included the family to complete the production that the bank does not finance, and hence the consumer price drops.

The work force that we use for livestock raising, cotton growing and everything is family-based. The relationship is one of relatives, godparents, uncles, nephews, brothers, etc. The problems are those of social services, such as health, housing, etc.

The small and medium-sized producers have no great surpluses, and yet we are not asking the government for camps; and that is different from the case of the large producer, who orders his workers to sleep in camps. Our relationship is more humane; the workers live on the producer's farms.

The Fears and the Desire

BARRICADA: What does the UNAG member fear, and what message would you like to convey to the small and medium-sized producers?

Lara: Generally speaking, there is no fear. One of the fears that the enemy has attempted to instill is that they are going to take the land away from us. That has been reduced because it is those who go over to the counterrevolution and who abandon their land, or the large producers who do the same thing, that are the ones to whom it should be explained that this will happen to them.

Agrarian reform has been guaranteed, because the one who produces has nothing to fear. But we do have one fear, which is critical, namely, that of losing our lives. And it is not for nothing; over 1,200 peasant comrades have been assassinated, and more than 800 have been kidnapped. Their worst crime has been to organize into cooperatives or in the militias or the revolutionary vigilance forces; and that is what the counterrevolution has assumed.

But this has prompted us to organize and arm ourselves more; because it shows that we have continued to produce.

We would like to tell the revolutionary government and the leadership that, if we succeeded in destroying the dictatorship here with "country-type" resources, shovels and machetes, we shall succeed. "We shall not put ourselves inside a gourd." We shall make Sandino's dreams a reality, and we know that this revolution will succeed, because all the government's plans are our own.

Let our government learn how to interpret our demands and our people be assured that, if necessary, the small and medium-sized producers will return to primitive levels in order to produce food. We shall produce up to the last seed that we plant, but we shall keep our commitments.

Influence of the Different Socioeconomic Sectors on Agricultural-Livestock Production:

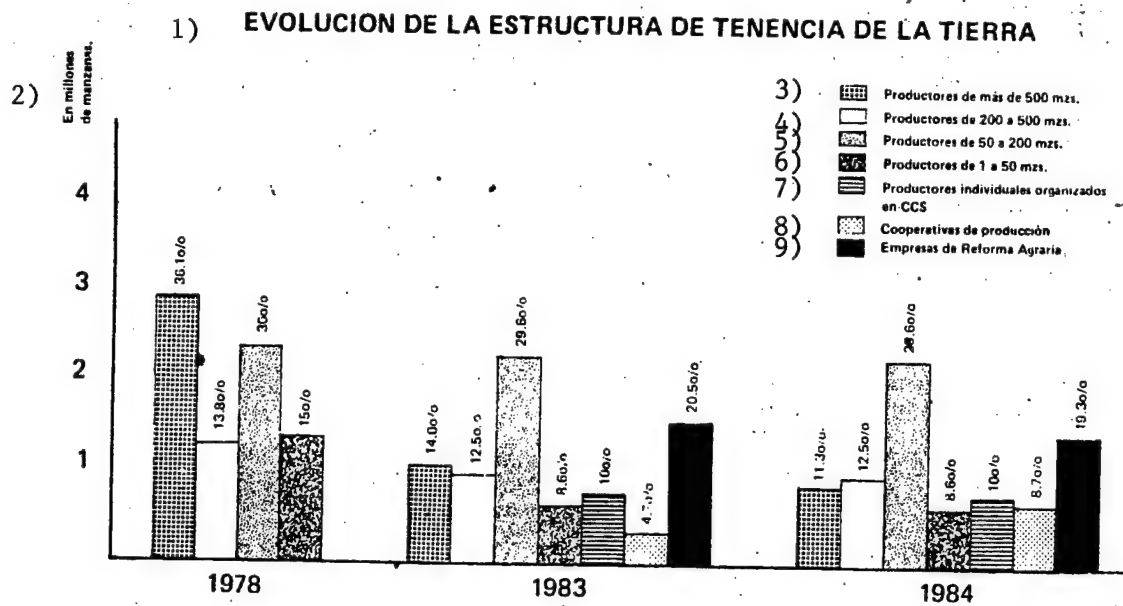
	APP	Large Private	Medium Private	Small Private	Total
Export agriculture	24	37.3	21.7	17	100
Domestic market agriculture	15.7	14.7	8.1	61.5	100
Livestock raising	24.7	11.0	30.4	33.9	100
Agro-industry	28	63.9	5.7	2.4	100

Source: MIDINRA and MIND [Ministry of Industry]

Influence of the Social Sectors on the 1984-84 Agricultural-Livestock Production Plan:

	Total Area in Manzanas %	Export Crops in Manzanas %	Domestic Consump- tion Crops in Manzanas %
State enterprises	16	26	10
Large private producers	22	40	10
Small and medium producers	30	14	41
Cooperatives	32	20	39
Total	100	100	100

Source: MIDINRA



Key to Graph:

1. Evolution of the Structure of Land Ownership
2. In millions of manzanas
3. Producers with over 500 manzanas
4. Producers with from 200 to 500 manzanas
5. Producers with from 50 to 200 manzanas
6. Producers with from 1 to 50 manzanas
7. Individual producers organized into CCS
8. Production cooperatives
9. Agrarian reform enterprises

2909

CSO: 3248/541

POLICE BRING SMUGGLERS, MILITARY CLASH UNDER CONTROL

PY181353 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Apr 84 p 17

[Excerpts] Early yesterday morning a shootout took place in downtown Asuncion. A pickup truck carrying goods allegedly smuggled into the country was intercepted by an Army truck carrying several armed soldiers. The owners of the goods stoned the soldiers, who reacted by firing their rifles into the air. There were no deaths but a cart driver, a soldier, and one of the petty smugglers [paseras] were hurt. The intervention of police officers prevented things from getting worse.

At approximately 0930 yesterday morning an unusual incident took place in downtown Asuncion. Military patrols chasing at great speed petty smugglers driving at no less speed in pickup trucks is hardly something new. However, yesterday's incident was unusual because the smugglers sought refuge at a neighboring house from where they hurled all sorts of objects at the soldiers, slightly injuring one of them. The recruits, commanded by a sergeant of the 14th Infantry Regiment, fired their rifles into the air to scare away the irate women vendors. There were tears, scuffles, a few blows, and insults were hurled at the soldiers in the presence of hundreds of persons who quickly gathered at the site of trouble upon hearing the shots.

The intervention of officers of the Third Police Precinct prevented a worsening of the confrontation, whose final resolution would have been anyone's guess, bearing in mind the decision of the 20 vendors involved to "die if need be."

Showing a whip, one of the women in question told HOY: "With this whip those of the 14th Infantry Regiment sometimes beat us up. Why should we belong to the Colorado Party, why should we support Stroessner, if we poor people are not given a chance to earn a living? We only make a few guaranies. Is it a wonder if our children, the children of the poor, become thieves?" Yet another vendor said that "had it not been for the police, we would have been killed, all of us. They say we are living in times of peace and yet we are harassed day and night. We can no longer work because of them, and we have many children to support."

Finally, after 1 hour of stones being hurled and soldiers firing their rifles into the air, calm was restored at the scene of this unusual clash. The smugglers took away their pickup truck and their merchandise and the soldiers left with their truck whose windshield had been shattered by a stone.

BRIEFS

COMMUNISTS ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS--A large demonstration in Lima has paid homage to the 54th death anniversary of Jose Carlos Mariategui, founder of the Peruvian Communist Party and the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers, the largest union confederation in the country. The demonstration was organized by the parties which comprise the Leftwing Unity Front, and became a demonstration against the government's economy policy and against the IMF's plans. The main speaker at the event, Senator Jorge del Prado, secretary general of the Peruvian Communist Party, announced the Leftwing Unity Front's participation in the demonstration that will be held tomorrow in Lima to condemn the government's economic policy and demand salary improvements and other gains for the workers. [Text] [PA171435 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Apr 84]

WORKERS HOLD 24-HOUR STRIKE--Half-a-million workers of 23 Peruvian state organizations, in addition to 100,000 hotel and restaurant workers, are holding a 24-hour strike today demanding higher pay, labor stability, and other claims. Monday, thousands participated in a march in downtown Lima called by the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers and by the Leftwing Unity Front, demanding compliance with a number of claims submitted during the 22 March general strike. Other measures of force underway include the occupation for the past 3 days of one of the principal dry cleaning firms, whose workers are demanding payment of 2 months' back wages. The 1,800 miners of the Rio Payanga mines, also demanding payment of 7 months' back wages, moved to Lima with their families 3 weeks ago. [Text] [PA191820 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 84]

CSO: 3348/393

ARSON, STRIKES VIEWED AS RESPONSE TO MILITARY MISMANAGEMENT

Willemstad AMIGOE in Dutch 23 Mar. 84 p 1

[Text] The Hague, Willemstad--The Suriname population's discontent with the military leaders' mismanagement is expressing itself increasingly more in acts of sabotage, in the course of which a series of fires have been set. Recently, the Bruynzeel lumber company burned partly down, the Bandag tire-recapping plant was nearly leveled to the ground and the Veena paint firm was likewise destroyed by fire.

The police refuse to provide reports, but everything indicates that it is a matter of arson. In recent months, a number of properties, above all business concerns and government buildings, have become the target of the wrath that has crept into the Suriname population.

The rapidly deteriorating financial situation is greatly contributing to this, as well as the complete inability of the army to guarantee the country a decent government.

Since his installation a few weeks ago, Prime Minister Udenhout has devoted himself almost exclusively to the country's most pressing problem: replenishing the extremely meager financial resources, so that at least the import of vital foodstuffs and goods can be guaranteed. For this purpose, the prime minister traveled to the United States, where he received the assurance of America's Minister Shultz that the United States wanted to give Suriname "an honest chance."

Upon his return to Suriname, Udenhout announced that he was also definitely planning to resume dialogue with the Netherlands, to get the development aid underway again. Now as before, there is little chance of this. Just recently, Prime Minister Lubbers and Minister of Developmental Cooperation Schoo declared that aid to Suriname will not be resumed under the present circumstances. Minister Schoo admitted that they would keep the 200 million guilders earmarked for aid to Suriname this year in the coffers until October. If by then there has still been no improvement in Suriname with respect to democracy, human rights and clearing up the December murders, this sum will be spent on other things.

It is doubtful that the Netherlands will grasp the hand proffered by Udenhout. Since the December murders, the Netherlands' government has consistently avoided all official contact with the Suriname leaders.

In the meanwhile, the murderous attack committed Wednesday evening in Schiedam against the brother of the Suriname opposition leader Salam Somohardjo has also aroused much repugnance. Coupled with other acts of violence against Suriname opposition leaders, this indicates that the terror also continues outside the borders of Suriname. There was, incidentally, some improvement today in the condition of Somohardjo's wounded brother. The man, who was shot in the head and hands, is no longer in danger of losing his life.

According to Udenhout, there exist possibilities for Suriname to arrange loans abroad. He did not, however, indicate what these possibilities consisted of.

The Suriname population's discontent with the course of affairs and in particular with the enormous amount of money being swallowed up by the army (70 million guilders this year alone) has already led to a series of arsons, above all in government buildings and private business concerns. These forms of protest, however understandable they may be, are naturally to be condemned, because they offer no solution at all to the already existing, overwhelming problems and because they move the country's economy even more rapidly towards the abyss.

Along with the arsons, moreover, another form of demonstrative protest has surfaced: that of strikes. Kersten, the largest department store, and even the Deaconesses' Hospital have been struck. Specifically, the employees continue to stand firm on their demands regarding wage compensations for the inflation that has simply been fueled by the scarcity of certain articles.

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CSO: 3214/31

COPEI'S CONTINUED INTERNAL STRUGGLE CAUSES CONCERN

Caracas BOHEMIA in Spanish 2-8 Apr 84 pp 14-17

[Article: "There Is War in COPEI"]

[Text] Without any exaggeration in stating it, which is our duty as journalists, the Social Christian Party (COPEI) is undergoing the most serious predicament of its existence. "The situation is extremely grave," we were told by a high-ranking COPEI leader and congressman. The internal discord in COPEI, which of course has been fostered by the natural intraparty power struggle, has deeper roots: the resounding failure that Luis Herrera Campins' government proved to be. Although COPEI had already had the experience of losing national elections when Rafael Caldera was president of the republic, its morale was not left so damaged as it is now. The Social Christian leaders and members were convinced that their leader had performed acceptable work in the government and that only socioeconomic circumstances, skillfully used to advantage at the time by Democratic Action [AD] and its candidate, Carlos Andres Perez (who carried out a brilliant election campaign), had given the victory to the latter.

There is another difference, this one of a quantitative nature, between the 1974 post-election period and that of 1984: COPEI lost to AD by half a million votes in 1973; whereas, on the other hand, it suffered a crushing defeat, by a difference of 1.5 million votes, in 1983.

Herrera Is to Blame

The great majority of COPEI members are "disenchanted," according to a leader of that party. This leader remarks: "COPEI's members have put the blame for the defeat on Luis Herrera, and they claim that his government played a joke on COPEI." Moreover, the Social Christian members also accuse Herrera and those who governed with him of having "played a joke on them" without caring about the consequences.

In view of this fact, the so-called "Herrera-Pablist" movement does not have a mass hold on COPEI at present. A member of this movement admits: "It is hard to admit it, but if the 'araguatos' (Calderists) wanted to influence us, they could do so easily." This means that, in the battle for the COPEI secretary

general's position, a Calderist candidate has all the odds in his favor. And that candidate would obviously be none other than Eduardo Fernandez. It is for this reason that Rafael Andres Montes de Oca is giving a great deal of thought to the submission of his candidacy for the Social Christian secretary general's post. At least for the present, COPEI's militant rank and file are repudiating anyone identified with the Herrera government.

Miguel Bello's COPEI

To top it all off, in Valencia, a town in which incidents such as the culmination of the "Cosiata" [literally, minor affair] which brought about Venezuela's separation from Gran Colombia have occurred, there have arrived the disturbing waves of a movement headed by Miguel Bello, the Carabobo leader who was expelled from COPEI at the height of the internal election campaign. Engineer Bello, with a great mass attraction in Carabobo, created a political organization that is the first Social Christian movement to have appeared in Venezuela dissociated from COPEI, which could become the embryo of another national party with the same ideology. Miguel Bello founded a movement called "From Valencia to Valencia," with a Social Christian doctrine and members who had come from COPEI, which will participate in the Valencia municipal elections contesting the votes of both the original Social Christian Party and Democratic Action.

The political phenomenon put into action by Bello is an irony in itself: COPEI has never been divided, but a son has emerged from it (although he is still very weak), resulting from an expulsion that some criticized for being hasty.

Meeting With an Extension

Considering the harsh realities, very sensible members of both groups (the Herrera-Pablists and the Calderists) agree that the feasible thing for COPEI would be to forget the internal dispute, cancel a battle for the party's power and reunite forces. "Only in this way could we take on the AD members," was the opinion of a member of the COPEI National Committee.

For the reunification, it would be necessary to extend the term of Eduardo Fernandez in the secretary general's position; but this would be under the condition that the 'araguatos' bury their intentions of getting even with the Herrera-Pablists for the outrages and affronts that they committed and inflicted (as the case may be) in the government. The idea of reuniting forces has the backing of Rafael Caldera, who is convinced of the need to fight for all possible votes in the municipal elections.

The Herrera-Pablists' Indecision

Nevertheless, the Herrera-Pablist group is in a bad condition; and this is because it has not decided on the course of action to follow. It has not even selected the one to be its candidate for the party's secretary general's post. There is a kind of stripping of the masts of the ship that has Herrera Campins and Aguilar as captains. The names which sound most like those of

potential rivals of Eduardo Fernandez are Pepi Montes de Oca, Luciano Valero and Pedro Pablo Aguilar himself; but, under the circumstances that we have already cited, none of them has decided to assume the representation of the party sector which failed in the government. Furthermore, the Herrera-Pablists, as a whole, appear disoriented, and lacking in definite leadership.

The Calderists, on the other hand, have a clearcut course of action and definite objectives. Among the medium-term objectives is that of (this time, indeed) distinguishing themselves from the Herrera Campins administration, described as disastrous by a vast majority of the public. To achieve this differentiation, the Calderists would not hesitate to expel many individuals from COPEI; something which (owing to inevitable implications) might harm many of the Herrera-Pablist leaders who were in government posts. This action would be fostered by the charges of acts of corruption brought by deputies from MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] and spokesmen for Democratic Action against officials of the last COPEI government. We should recall the charges made by Orlando Fernandez and Walter Marquez, who claim that, in many contracts for public works construction in which payments of surcharges amounting to hundreds of millions of bolivares were proven, there was influence from officials in very high positions.

The Recovery of Morale

The seriousness of COPEI's internal situation lies not only in the fact that it needs to recover politically, but also that it must recover its internal morale. The devastating disclosures regarding misappropriation of public monies, administrative incompetence, loss of national assets, a calamitous debt, squandering of budgets, failure of state enterprises and autonomous institutions, standstills of projects of public utility and corruption turned into an official practice have offended the rank and file COPEI militant who, in good faith, never imagined such a situation.

To recover COPEI's confidence and internal morale is the difficult task that is incumbent on the leaders of that party at this time which is running short for them. The fact is that those who supported them with their votes in December 1983 do not understand how they can be engaged in battling each other for control of the party, forgetting the interests of the country.

2909

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BRIEFS

FRENCH MINISTER VISITS--Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi met with Paul Quiles, French urban affairs and housing minister, yesterday afternoon at Miraflores Palace. The French minister was accompanied by Marcel Maitre, French ambassador to Venezuela, during his courtesy visit to the Venezuelan President. [Summary]
[PA281938 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 13-d PA]

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